NEWS, PAGES 16-17



STEPFATHERS ARE not bogeymen

How to create an extended family — without tears

EATURES, PAGE 19



OSCAR YEAR FOR THE BRITS?

No, say the stars. It's all a total waste of time

THE EYE, PAGE 7

INI)FP

Ruud awakening for Chelsea's sex symbol: did he jump or was he pushed?

Cancer risk for children who eat too much

Health Editor

FAT CHILDREN are more likely to develop cancer in adult life. The risk increases with every extra chocolate bar, or its calorle equivalent, eaten each day.

The finding, based on a unique study of the nation's health and diet which started in the Thirties, offers a possible explanation for the increase in. cancer which now affects one in to a chocolate bar, a ham sandthree of the population: that we wich or a piece of cake. are getting bigger. Cases of cancer have risen 30 per cent among women and 21 per cent among men between 1979 and 1991 and this is only partly explained by the ageing of the population.

Latest figures published yesterday show that cancer has overtaken heart disease to become Britain's higgest killer. Nearly 9,000 more people died from cancer than from beart disease in 1996, according to the Cancer Research Campaign.

Success in combating heart disease, deaths from which have fallen sharply, has highlighted slower progress in tackling cancers chiefly because of the difficulty of persuading people not to smoke - especially the vourg and women.

In another development yesterday, lung-cancer sufferers seeking compensation from tohacco-manufucturers scored a significant advance when the High Court lifted gagging orders on the plaintiffs and ruled that they would not be liable for huge legal costs if they lost.

Smoking is the chief cause of cancer and outweighs all other causes. But the study of children's diets, published in the British Medical Journal, shows that the quantity of calories eaten affects the risk of developing cancers other than those

related to smoking. Almost 4,000 children whose



The finding reinforces the message that overeating in childhood carries long-term risks. But researchers from the University of Bristol, who carried out the study, warned that it should not be taken to mean

Stephen Frankel, professor of public health medicine, who led the research team, said: "At any age the individual risk of getting one of these non-smoking related cancers is small. This research shows there is a relation between energy intake and the risk of cancer and that is important in understanding the caus-

es of cancer." Tall people are already known to be at greater risk from cancer and average heights and girths - have been increasing over the past 50 years with improving diet. Obesity has doubled since 1980. Research on animals has shown that restricting calorie intake slows the biological changes associated with cancer and ageing.

the chance of generic changes." But, he said: "Within each income band, the more you eat the greater the likelihood of cancer. That holds as long as you are eating enough. No one

diets were closely monitored in the late Thirties were followed up for 60 years. One in 20 had died of cancer and the risk was highest among those who ate most as children. For each extra megajoule - 239 calories - caten daily, the risk rose 20 per cent for non-smoking-related cancers, allowing for other factors such as income and social class. A megajoule is about a tenth of the average adult daily diet, equivalent

food was bad for health.

Cancer is triggered by a genetic mutation which causes the cells to multiply out of control and children who eat less may be at lower risk because they grow more slowly. Professor Frankel said: "If there is more of you there is more chance of one of these unwelcome mutations occurring. The simple fact that the cells are growing more slowly reduces

is recommending starvation."

pay and conditions.

found out about the decision from the media hut had always intended to resign. Gianluca Vialli, the Italian striker, has been

appointed player-manager with immediate effect. Gullit, 35, will continue to be paid until July but is reaching a crucial stage.

present they are second in the Premiership, have reached the quarter-finals of European Cup-Winners' Cup, and play in the Coca-Cola Cup semifinals on Wednesday.

Chelsea said the timing of the move was forced upon them by the need to avoid managerial uncertainty affecting next season's plans. The club said it had been negotiating for three months but Gullit's pay demands were way in excess of what is was prepared to pay. Gullit, who has called a press conference for this morning, said there had only been one, amicable, meeting and he was "as-

tounded" by the decision. The choice of successor will not have helped.

Though Gullit signed Vialli in July 1996, their relationship deteriorated with Vialli frequently omitted from the team. Yesterday Vialli said his first task was to improve morale and restore "hon-

esty" in communications. Gullit arrived in England in the summer of 1995, signed by Glenn Hoddle, then manager of Chelsea, now the England coach.

He was revered as one of the best players the game has ever seen and his arrival epitomised the English game's recovery from the dark days of hooliganism to its current fashionable status. He was appointed manager when Hoddle left to take over the England joh. Sport, page 30



Rund Guillit: joined the London club in 1996 and is said to be 'astounded' by yesterday's decision to replace him

Photograph: Chris Grieve

Vialli ousts Gullit in battle of Stamford Bridge

THE MOST famous dreadlocks in England were yesterday given the chop and replaced by a shaven Italian pate after Chelsea Football Club claimed

to have run out of patience with Ruud Gullit. The glamorous Dutchman, who has restored Chelsea's reputation as football's most fashionable team, was relieved of his duties as playermanager after negotiations to extend his contract beyond this summer apparently foundered over

Gullit, however, denied the club's version of

when told of the move - and claimed he not only

will take no further part in the club's season which The decision stunned the foothall world. Gullit, who had never managed before, has been a great success at a club whose self-image has nev-

er been matched by its achievements. Last May, he steered Chelsea to victory in the FA Cup fievents - which suggested he abruptly walked out nal, their first major honour since 1971, and at

Pinter and Hume lead assault Friday the 13th - but on plans for war in the Gulf

By Colin Brown Political Correspondent

HAROLD PINTER last night delivered a stinging attack on Tony Blair and Bill Clinton over the threatened war against Saddam Hussein, claiming the US President had "killed thousands of children" by sanctions and accusing the Cabinet of being excited by the prospect of dropping "big bombs" on Iraq. The playwright led mount-

ing opposition to war in the Gulf at a meeting of dissident Labour MPs at Westminster, as Cardinal Basil Hume, the leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, released a letter to Mr Blair expressing "strong doubts" over whether military targets could be hit without causing "dispropor-

ic of American aggression, told The Independent that the close Anglo-American relationship forged between Mr Blair and Mr Clinton was "shameful and patheric". He said: "The USA is a monster. It's actually the USA that needs to be stopped.

appalling but what we lose sight of is that it's been abstracted now and sanitised to such a degree . . . I said in my speech that Mr Clinton has killed children and he hasn't even noticed it, because they are actually abstractions - they are children dying by his sanctions."

"Everyone knows that war is

War had been "sanitised by political propaganda from government with a certain kind of complicity in the media. That was certainly the case in the Gulf war." Mr Pinter added: "I

Mr Pinter, a long-term crit- am not a pacifist. I am rational." Addressing an anti-war meeting at Westminster, Mr Pinter said: "Despite continual references to the solidarity of 'the international community', the United States has in fact held international law in contempt for so long it has succeeded in rendering the concept

Madeleine Albright [the US Secretary of State] said the other day 'our patience is running out'. 1 remember a man who used to say very much the same thing in the 1930s. The USA is now a bovine monster out of control.

That this government can so glibly ally itself to such a pointless, utterly irresponsible and profoundly dangerous enterprise is lamentable."

iraq crisis, pages 12, 13

worse is to come

By William Hartston

FODAY is Friday the 13th. For the superstitious, that is bad news, but there is worse to come: for the 13th of March and the 13th of November will also fall on a Friday. Three Friday the 13ths in one year is the most that can occur. It last happened in 1987; it will not happen again until 2009.

In Christian tradition, the Friday the 13th superstition is usually linked to the number present at the Last Supper, and the day of the Crucifixion. yet triskaidekaphobia - fear of the number 13 - dates back to pre-Christian times. In fact the Christian association between Friday the 13th and bad luck dates back only to the middle

ages when the number 13 was

omen in other cultures. The origins of 13-fear dates back to the Babylonians. According to the 1894 edi-

tion of Brewer's Phrase and Fable, "The Turks so disliked the number that the word is almost expunged from their vocabulary". The French, at the end of the 19th century, would jump from 12 to 14 in street numbers. Even today, as the new Citibank huilding goes up on Canary Wharf, the numbers painted on the outside of the concrete pillars that will form the lift shaft read 11 ... 12 ... 12+1 ... 14.

From a rational perspective, such superstition is nonsense - though it must have been irritating for any rationalist to note that in the first year of the National Lottery, the numbers least favoured by the draw already long established as a bad were 13 and 39.

Today's news

Boxing and PMT

BRITISH boxing officials believe that women are untit to box because they suffer from pre-menstrual tension which makes them emotional, unstable and accidentprone, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Page 4

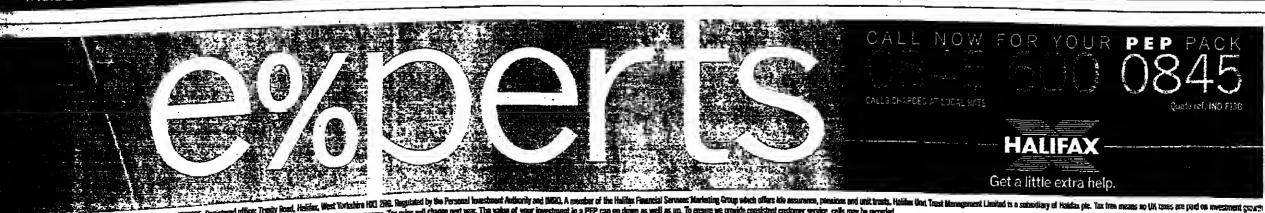
Smaller classes

MORE than 100,000 infants will he taught in smaller classes from September as the first step towards fulfilling the Government's pledge to cut class sizes.

Costly pleasures

THE hrother of the Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest man, spent £21m on an exclusive home to keep his prostitutes out of the public eve. a court heard.

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P30 AND EYE P26 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P28 • SPORT, P27-30 • GAZETTE, P18 • LETTERS, P20 • FULL CONTENTS, P2



Our ceasefire stands, say IRA

By Kim Sengupta in Belfast and Colin Brown in London

Northern Ireland ministers were last night fighting to ease the crisis over the Ulster peace talks with a clear hint that the Loyalist Ulster Democratie the negotiations at the end of this month.

The move was seen at Westminster as a signal that Sinn Fein could be suspended for a few weeks, if the IRA is held responsible for killing a loyalist, as a deliberately limited punishment that would not permanently destroy the talks. Sinn Fein warned yesterday that such a suspension could unleash IRA hard-liners.

Last night the IRA insisted that its seven-month-old ceasefire was still in place. The terror group spelled out its position in a brief statement sent to the Duhlin newsroom of RTE, the frish Republic's hroadcasting network.

"Contrary to speculation surrounding recent killings in Belfast, the IRA cessation of mate which enhances the also claimed that the IRA

search for a democratic settlement through real and inclusive negotiations."

The UDP was suspended from the peace talks after the loyalist UFF broke its ceasefire for retaliatory killings of Catholics after the murder by Party could be allowed back into the loyalist leader Billy Wright in the Maze prison.

Paul Murphy, the Northern

Ireland minister, last night told UDP leaders via a video conference link to Belfast that London and Duhlin would begin to review the UDP's eligibility to participate "with a view to considering whether the necessary conditions had been met to enable the UDP's re-entry in the process". Sources in London said it would require the UDP to show by "words and deeds" that the loyalists had resumed the ceasefire, and it was

Speaking in Belfast, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said: "The question could be better put in terms of how influential we would be if we were dumped out of the process we have every right to be in. There military operations remains in- are no grounds for expulsion, tact." it said. "We reiterate our and the peace process cannot preparedness to facilitate a cli- work without us." Mr Adams

being obeyed.

ceasefire was still intact, but he refused to be drawn on who could have been responsible for the murder of loyalist Bobby Dougan, a leading member of the Ulster Defence Association. and Brendan Campbell, a drugs

If it is proved that the IRA were involved in the murders then it would be in clear breach of the Mitchell principles on peace which forms the basis for the talks, and it is thought make Sinn Fein's continuing presence in them untenable.

Mr Adams accused Unionist leader David Trimble of leading a propaganda campaign to have his party thrown out of the talks. "It is dictated solely by politician expediency and their own tactical objective of preventing any meaningful change in the status quo here

RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan has so far resisted loyalist pressure to state publicly whether he believes the IRA were behind the latest

Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will listen to his views before decided on whether to expel Sinn



Bad omen: A new message on a sniper sign near the Republican Derrybeg housing estate

TOMORROW

IN YOUR 5-SECTION INDEPENDENT

MAGAZINE

John Walsh meets Gerald Ratner, comeback kid

TIME OFF

48 hours in Verona, city of love, sun and games in The Gambia

YOUR MONEY

The rising cost of fire insurance

> THE EYE Your guide to what's on

Compliment returned for pigs that put town on the map

By Andrew Buncombe

the Ripper trail, Canterbury has its pilgrims' pathway and in Liverpool fans can visit the haunts of The Beatles.

London's East End has its Jack

shire has become an likely are preparing maps tracing the member of this select group with its "trotter trail".

Inspired by the publicity, nay hysteria, surrounding the escape, hunt, capture and eventual tahloid buy-up of two local pigs, tourist information officers

footsteps of the animals.

The two pigs, quickly nicknamed Butch and Sundance, grabbed attention last month when they escaped from an abattoir. Their escape across a swollen river and their return

ing caught, Inspired yards of newsprint and some of the worst pig jokes imaginable.

While nationally the excitement surrounding the pigs has died down, the Malmesbury Tourist Information Office is

to the wild for a week before be- still deluged by calls about them. Tourist manager Sandra Pell said the "trotter trail" maps will he ready in a few weeks. "The reaction has really been amazing. We are still gening calls from the

public, and from the media

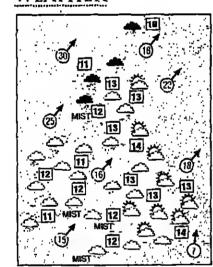
INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest forecasts shall 0891 5009 leitowed by the two dupts for your area indicated by the above map

Source: The Met Utico: Cult. charged at 50p per inim at all times (inc VAT)

wanting to do more coverage." Cuddly toy versions of the two pigs have been rushed out by toy company Gosh International. Meanwhile the real-life heroes are enjoying a life of peaceful luxury at a sanctuary

WEATHER



It will stay mild everywhere. Central, southern and

eastern England will have some cloud but it will be dry with the sun breaking through at times." North-west England and Wales will also have a lot of cloud with some light drizzly rain, although eastern Wates should brighten up. Northern heland will be cloudy with rain at times, becoming sporadic and drizzly. The north and west of Scotland will be windy th occasional rain but the east will be orier act

Outlook for the next few days it will stay very mild and the south and east will continue dry. Pain will push south from Scotland into northern England and Northern freland on Saturday but protectly no further, although much of the country will be rather cloudy. The best chance of any surshine will be in the east. On Sunday spells of sunshine are more likely, especially across southern and eastern England. There will be more rain in the north however

mostly over the west and north of Scotland.

Atlantic chart, nnon today Air quality

High tides 15.21 12:29 20:46 19.39 13.42 12:43

Bristol Clasgow

Sun & moon

Last quarter February 19th

Out and about with AA Roadwatch Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and restoral traffic news. Source: The Automobile Accordation. Calls charged at 50p per

World weather most recent available figure at moon focal time



WILLIAM **HARTSTON** WEATHER WISE

The past week has produced some stranger-than-average weather stories. Here are a few of them:

England: In Selby, Yorkshire. a 14-year-old boy was arrested and charged with endangering road safety by making an iceslide on a road after he had thrown buckets of water on a road outside his home. He is helieved to be the first person in Britain to be prosecuted for the offence. He pleaded guilty at a wouth court but was discharged. A prosecution application or

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Leader & letter:

costs was also thrown out. After his release, the boy said: "I think it's daft. Making the slide was good fun at the time, but it's not now." His father commented: "I feel very angry about it. They'll want planning permission for building a snow-

Papua: After the worst drought in Papua New Guinea for a hundred years, heavy rain is now adding to the problem by preventing relief supplies reaching drought-stricken areas. "It's ironic," said Royal Australian Air Force Wing Commander Ken Wehh, "the rain is good for the drought but its not so good for us."

Lithuania: An unusually mild winter has forced a change in arrangements for a traditional sporting event: the annual horserace over the frozen waters of Lake Sartai. For only the second time since the races began in the early 18th century, the ice on the lake was not thick enough to support the horses. The organisers this year therefore built an icetrack next to the lake, on which the horses pulled two-wheeled carts instead of the traditional sledges. There were

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67 horses in the competition. which was run on Sunday and was won by Algis Vilkinis,

Pakista:

Dressag

Peru: The city of Trigillo in Peru experienced one of the more grisly consequences of El Niño this week as 12 hours of rain caused a lagoon to burst its banks and send an avalanche of water and mud cascading down hillsides on a path that went through a cemetery. The water unearthed graves and sent coffins floating along streets through the centre of Trujillo.

Britain: The warm weather of the past week has brought early signs of spring. Hedgehogs have come out of hibernation and daffodils have begun to emerge. Temperatures as high as 14C have heen recorded. which is well short of the highest Fehruary temperature on record in Britain, which was 19.4C in Cambridge in 1891, A. spokeswoman for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society expressed fears of serious repercussions. "They could start mating and because the gestation period is only 32 to 36 days the hoglets could be born in snow. They would just get



papers in the first half of 1997.

Dan't worry. There'll be another one along seen.



From March 29th this year, Singapore Airlines will fly three times a day, instead of twice, direct from London to Singapore every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In addition, we will also fly direct from

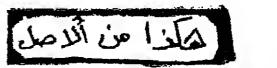
Manchester to Singapore five times a week instead of four. The result will be that Singapore Airlines makes more direct flights a week from London and Manchester to Singapore than anyone else in

the world. More flights will give you more choice as to when you fly and what connections you can then take from Singapore. For more information contact your local travel agent or call

Singapore Airlines on 0181 747 0007. Internet address bttp://www.singaporeair.com

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Mohamed al Fayed remained at odds with Princess Diana's representatives yesterday after claiming that the crash in which she and his son. Dodi, died was the result of a conspiracy. In an unprecedented statement, her office attacked speculation about the Princess's death and said it was upsetting her sons, princes William and

Crash investigators in Paris also refused to be drawn on Mr Fayed's claims, saying they would wait until the inquiry was over. "Mr Fayed has his own opinions but we are not prepared to comment on them. The investigation is already before a French

judge and only when he concludes his investigations will we have an opinion," said one of the investigating team.

The conspiracy theorists' view that the death of the Princess was no accident remained, at first, confined to sections of the Arah media with a vested interest in pointing the finger at Western security services. Most people accepted the official line that the fatal crash in Paris last August had been an accident.

Yet as the official French investigation into the circumstances of the tragedy drags slowly on behind closed doors, so the rumour mill has gathered pace.

Rumours insinuating that the deaths of Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed and their dri-

orate plnt, began almost immediately after the tragedy. But the conspiracy theory really took huld three weeks later as it emerged that a white car, believed to be a Fiat Uno, had been involved in the accident hut had mysteriously disappeared. Furthermore, the existence of the white car had at first heen denied by the French.

Then on 22 September, the American magazine Time published an article stating that a doctor claimed to have been informed by a colleague, who treated the princess at the crash scene, that she had

told him she was "six weeks pregnant". The story struck a chord with those who remembered that while hulidaying in St

Tropez earlier in the summer. Diana, had said to journalists: "You will have a big surprise coming soon, the next thing I do." This followed photographs of her in a swimming costume displaying a slightly swollen

It was also recalled that Diana had reportedly told friends that she believed her days were numbered because the British establishment regarded her as a "loose cannon". She had apparently expressed the fear that one day she would fly off in a helicopter which would suddenly explode.

Commentators pointed out that Diana's anti-landmine campaign had been causing great annoyance to the US government and in the defence industry worldwide.

Her relationship with the Muslim son of Mr Fayed, someone who did perhaps more than any other individual to undermine the reputation of the former Conservative government, could be seen as the ultimate insult to some sections of the es-

In a new book, Death of a Princess: An Im estigation by Thomas Sancton and Scott MacLeod, the authors speculate that Diana's alleged pregnancy was the most "explosive element" in the whole affair.

They write: "For the mother of the future King of England to bear the child of an Arab and a Muslim, a child who would be the half-sibling of the heir to the throne, would be embarrassing and prob-

lematic in the eyes of the Royal Family and the ruling Establishment. If a pregnancy were confirmed, the conspiracy theories would be uncontainable. There could theoretically be consequences for Britain's relations with the Arab world and resentment among the 1.5 million Muslim population in Britain." Extracts from the book have been published in a national newspaper, reactivating the rumour machine.

Then yesterday, Mr Fayed brought the speculation to new heights by claiming the couple were forced off the road to their deaths. "I believe 99.9 per cent it was no accident," he said. "I will not rest until I have established exactly what happened." £400,000 for Diana's song, page 15

The wedding of the future: old, new, borrowed - or just blue?



And the bride wore knickers: Preparations for the first fashion parade of the National Wedding Show which opened at Olympia, London, yesterday

Kate Adie hits out at management style of the BBC

Media Editor

As she prepares to go to the Gulf, the BBC's chief news correspondent, Kate Adie, has launched a scathing attack on her bosses for being better versed in American-style management-speak than in the practicalities of broadcasting.

In an interview with the trade journal Press Gazette to mark 30 years in broadcasting. she said a "huge division" had developed between the people who run the corporation and those who make programmes. "There is undoubtedly now

a management [at the BBC] ... which actually wouldn't know how to broadcast if it was put up against a wall and you said you were going to shoot them," she said. "It's a fashion... At the moment we are into a rather Americanised management obsession. I read memos and I am rather ashamed by some of the management-speak that knocks around this huilding."

This is the second time in a week that BBC mandarins have been subjected to such criticism by a senior employee. The head of drama serials, Michael Wear-Photograph: Rui Xavier ing, said he was quitting the cor-

poration in disgust at both its commercialization and its "suh LA-style" approach to man-

But Ms Adie told The Independent yesterday that she did not intend to quit. "I'm perfectly happy. If I weren't I would be out of the place," she said in response to suggestions that she is increasingly frustrated by her less frequent screen appearances. She acknowledges that it is tougher to get on the Six or Nine O'Clock News with foreign stories hecause of the growing number of correspondents which the BBC employs to cover domestic events, but even global news service CNN could not lure her away with a much higger salary.

"I don't personally find myself impeded in my work in any way," she said. "But I do observe what's going on in this organisation and I do worry about young people coming into it. I was brought into an organisation where public service was absolutely paramount. But this is a corporation where the husiness ethic is becoming increasingly important. In journalism you need people above you with the highest standards and prin-

Brother of world's richest man 'couldn't stop spending'

By Kate Watson-Smyth

The brother of the world's richest man spent £21m on a home in Park Lane so that he could keep his prostitutes away from the public eye", the High Court heard vesterday.

Prince Jefri of Brunei would also fly up to 50 prostitutes from all over the world to his palace in Brunei for his "nightly entertainment and sex parties".

"His main interests in life involve massive self-indulgence and spending unimaginable sums of moncy," Christopher Carr QC claimed.

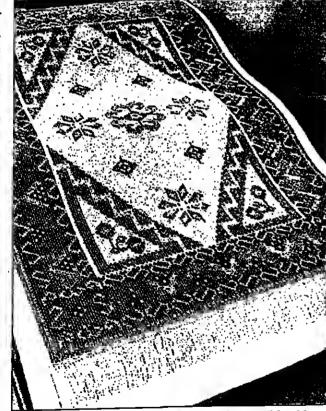
He said the Prince spent millions of pounds on expensive objets d'art including a \$7-8m rug woven from solid gold thread and encrusted with precious stones as well as a collection of erotic watches and pens and a £895,000 hlackjack table made of jewels and semi-precious stones with a gold shoebox for the cards.

The Prince's extravagant lifestyle was outlined on the fourth day of a multi million pound legal battle which could become one of the most expensive personal actions in British legal history.

Prince Jefri. 44, whn has four wives and three children, is being sued for £80m by Bob and Rafi Manoukian, two of his closest friends and emissaries, who claim he failed to honour two business deals.

- The Prince, who recently bought Asprey's, the Queen's jewellers, for £244m, is countersuing for £100m claiming that Rafi Manoukian exploited a friendship and made unreasonable and concealed profits

However. Mr Carr, for the Manoukians, suggested that his counter-action was motivated by spine. Prince Jefri is so affronted and offended at being sued by the Manoukians that he has instructed that their lives should be made a misery by suing them for everything that moves and engaging them in ex-



All that glitters is gold: the rug woven from solid gold thread and and the blackjack table inset with jewels that the prince is said to have bought Photograph: PA



The idea that Rafi Ma-

noukian would devote over

half his life - 11 years - to serv-

is ludicrous," said Mr Carr rep-

unlimited. He was a one-man

walking market on his own. The

"Prince Jefri'a tastes were

resenting the Manoukians.

The London-based brothers and the Prince were husiness

partners for 11 years during which time they concluded £500m of deals on the Prince's behalf. Prince Jefri claims he had a fiduciary relationship with Rafi Manoukian whereby he (Manoukian) acted solely in

implication is that Rafi Manoukian should not have been making a profit but the Prince gave little attention to Rafi's profit. Prince Jefri simply wanted what Prince Jefri wanted at a price he was willing to pay."

The court, packed with 10 barristers and up to 14 solicitors, heard that Prince Jefri bought the property at 45 Park Lane, the former Playboy Club, for 221m even though he had been told two months earlier that it was only worth £5m.

"A substantial proportion of his extensive palatial construction in Brunei was carried out for the purpose of providing his nightly entertainment. His sex parties attended by up to 50 prostitutes from various countries flown to Brunei, paid, housed, clothed and bejewelled at his expense."

The court was shown photographs of some of the items which Rafi Manoukian procured for the Prince.

"Rafi came in hear that Prince Jefri used to have gambling sessions at 45 Park Lane for some of his friends. It was in secret because it would be frowned upon in Islamic circles," he said.

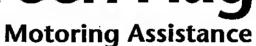
Rafi Manoukian designed and commissioned the blackjack table and Prince Jefri was delighted and agreed to pay the price asked without negotiation.

"He now claims that he did not even know that this table had been delivered - it had never been taken out of its packing until recently. That is a lie. Its purpose is to protect Prince Jefri's appearance of religious devotion from any improper taint within a society of increasingly fundamentalist

The Prince also paid around £5m for 10 watches which depict a mechanically copulating ing Prince Jefri for no reward couple on the hour and £800,000 on a set of pens fashioned to resemble a naked couple.

The case continues.

Green Flag



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The 12-ft poster that really is good enough to eat

By Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The poster looked good enough to eat — and it was when the world's first edible poster was unveiled in London yesterday.

The 12ft-long chocolate-covered har from Cadbury's was almost 30 times its original size, weighed 100kg and required three men to carry it.

The gigantic bar was made from 40kg of chocolate and 22 gallons of milk – the equivalent of milking a cow for 10 days. It marked the relaunch of the Snack Wafer hrand in the UK and a comeback of the 30-year-old advertising slogan "Bridge That Gap With Cadhury's Snack".

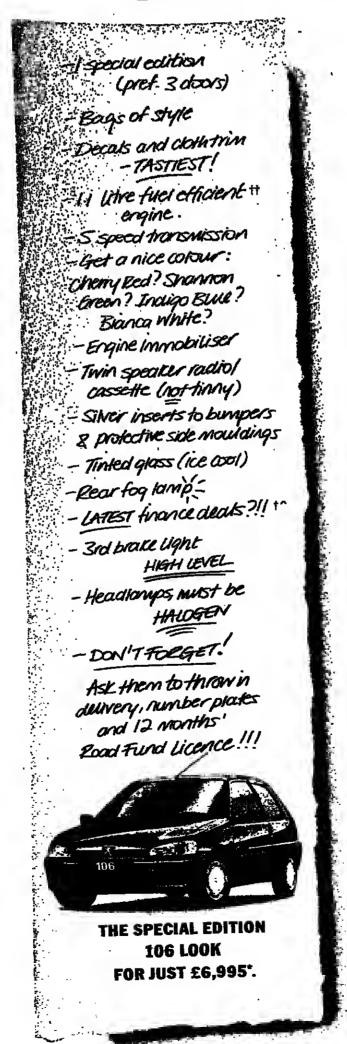
The poster site on Vauxhall Bridge was patrolled overnight by security guards. Tony Bilsborough, spokesman for Cadbury's, said: "Although the weather isn't hot enough to melt it, we're taking it down later. We don't want to tempt people into gorging on this massive spectacle."

The edible campaign was to be replaced by a 3D imitation later in the day. A further 650 poster sites across Britain are being erected today at a



Chocs away: Melanie Sykes, of television's Big Breakfast, launching Cadbury's Snack Wafer with an edible poster in London yesterday

Shopping this weekend? Don't forget the list.





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Women 'are unfit boxers due to PMT'

BRITISH hoxing officials believe women are unfit to box because they suffer from premenstrual tension which makes them emotional, unstable and accident-prone, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

It heard that the British Board of Boxing Control refused to grant a top woman boxer a professional licence to compete in the United Kingdom after the board ruled women were "too fragile to box".

Jane Couch, 29, the world welterweight champion, who is forced to fight abroad, has accused the BBBC of sexual discrimination at a hearing in Croydon, south London.

Dinah Rose, representing Ms Couch – nicknamed the Fleetwood Assassin – said: "This is one of the crudest forms of gender stereotyping. It is an attempt to protect the last bastion of male-only sport against the participation of women."

Reading from a letter from the BBBC, Ms Rose said: "They state 'unfortunately many women suffer from PMT when they are more prone to accidents, they are more emotional and more labile [unstable], which makes them more prone to injury'."

The tribunal heard that the BBBC board turned down Ms Couch's application on medical grounds in June 1997. It claimed women should not be allowed to box professionally because they bruise more easily, can suffer weight gain during periods and become unstable when experiencing PMT. The board ruled that all contraceptive and painkillers taken for period pains would not be allowed.

Further, it said it would be a dangerous for women to box? when pregnant and they can suffer from lumps on the breasts; after being punched.

The board also complained that the rule banning boxers from wearing anything above waist height would have to be drastically reconsidered. It rejected an application by Ms Couch, from Fleetwood, Lancashire, who is 5ft 7ins and weighs 10 stone, on medical grounds despite no medical expounds despite no medical expounds.



Jane Couch: Forced to fight outside of Britain

amination being carried out. At yesterday's hearing Leonard Read, the board's president and chairman, admitted that it had not medically examined Ms Couch. In December 1997. Ms Couch was offered £10,000 for a fight to be held at Wembley Arcna. But Mr Read said that women boxing "only attracted alleged fans who want to see women fighting each other much as they did women mud wrestling". The hearing continues.

'Mardi Gra' bomb attack

A MOTORIST had a lucky escape yesterday after a bomb, believed to be the handiwork of the self-styled Mardi Gra extortionist, exploded in his car.

The man picked up a plastic bag, which is believed to have contained the explosive device, from a cash point machine near Sainsbury's in Forest Hill, south London and drove off with it. He suffered from shock after it went off, but police have be unable to confirm whether it was the latest attack by the Mardi Gra bomber because the device was thrown onto the road and has not been recovered by police.

Scotland Yard, however, believe it bears all the marks of the man who has targeted Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's with a serious of homemade bombs that use shotgun cartridges—the latest attack coming just a week ago. Police are appealing for anyone who saw someone place a bag by the cashpoint.

— Juson Bennetto, Cume Correspondent

Choking London

EXHAUST fumes from traffic in the capital are causing pollution levels to breach almost all the Government's targets, according to a study unveiled yesterday from the London Research Centre. Last year saw levels of nitrogen dioxide exceed National Air Quality Strategy Objectives at all London measuring sites except Greenwich and Sutton. Nearly half the pollutant is spewed from vehicles and experts say exposure increases the risk of bronchitis and pneumonia. Concentrations of particulates, tiny deadly particles of dust, topped safety levels throughout the Tity.

els throughout the city. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Corespondent Beef case set to go ahead

A-SCOTTISH hotelier who served beef on the hone could be the first to be prosecuted under safety regulations. The Procurator Fiscal in Selkirk is to proceed with the test case against Jim Sutherland, of The Lodge, Carfraemill. The case

is to be heard in March and carries a maximum fine of £5,000 Mr Sutherland organised the "First Prohibition Dinner" in December, diners were to have paid £12 for slices of beef on the bone and trimmings. But the arrival of health inspectors forced a change of plan: it was decided to offer the meal free in a bid to sidestep any legal problems and Mr Sutherland, who is also a farmer, footed the £2,000 bill.

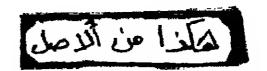
Police move paedophile

CONVICTED paedophile Robert Oliver has been moved from the Sussex police station where he has been sheltering to more permanent secure accommodation elsewhere in the country. Oliver, 43, who was jailed for 15 years for the sexual assault and manslaughter of 14-year-old Jason Swift was released last September.

He then stayed in Swindon, Wiltshire, London, Dublin, Liverpool and Manchester before arriving in Brighton, where police warned he posed a "significant threat to the safety of young men and boys."

Crash firm fined £9,000

A COACH company was fined £9,000 yesterday for having faulty brakes on a coach that crashed, killing nine American tourists and the British driver. The brakes and speed-limiter were defective, which led to the coach colliding with a van and then careering off the M2 in Kent in November 1993, Sittingbourne magistrates were told. Brelanton, formerly the Travellers Coach Company, was not represented in court, but had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to having a defective speed-limiter.



The story tobacco firms don't want to hear



Violet Rumsey: 'I feel that my family and I have suffered enough' Photograph: Brian Harris

British smokers who have contracted lung cancer yesterday cleared another crucial legal hurdle in their battle to win compensation from cigarette manufacturers.

Lawyers representing the lose their case they will not be linhle for huge legal costs. The decision - the first major one before the courts on conditional fee agreements - eodorsed the no-win, no-fee we cootinue to act for this empting them from future legal agreement.

Furthermore, the gagging order which prevented the plaintiffs from talking publicly about their cases was lifted, adding to what the solicitor Martyn Day, of Leigh, Day and Co. described as "a good day as far as justice for the ordinary tional Fee Agreement, they are greater or lesser risk as to legal British individual is concerned". intimately involved and there-

Smokers' claim for compensation set to go ahead as threat of huge legal costs is lifted. Clare Garner reports

"cleared the clouds" which the smokers were given reassurance defendants, Gallaher and Im- Lord Justice Aldous and Lord in the High Court that if they perial Tobacco, had put over the Justice Chadwick said that alcase in terms of the plaintiffs having to pay the costs.

> team is happy with the idea that group of plaintiffs and pursue costs estimated at up to £9m. the case with full vigour to trial as soon as possible."

bacco had argued that because the solicitors - Leigh Day and Co and Irwin Mitchell - and the harristers are using a Conditional Fee Agreement, they are greater or lesser risk as to legal

Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, though the lawyers were acting that, had the the lawyers lost under a no-win, no-fee agree-"As a result I'm pleased to ment, they did not need any spesay that the whole of the legal cial protection. They were not given a debarring order ex-

John Pickering, one of the solicitors at Irwin Mitchell, wel-Gallaher and Imperial To- comed the judges' confirmation that their team would be in exactly the same position as advisers oo Legal Aid.

He said: "We have no

Mr Day said the ruling had fore liable for costs. But Lord being pursued by the tobacco companies has been lifted

Legal experts said yesterday outright on the liability issue, it would have almost certainly have halted litigation against tobacco companies in the foreseeable future. It would also have had a damaging effect on the Government's plans to expand "no-win, no-fee" agree-

At present, 43 smokers have issued writs, hut more are expected to follow suit. The youngest plaintiff, a 49-year-old mother, died in December.

A spokesman for the anti-say," he said.

smoking pressure group Ash called on other living victims of lung cancer from cigarette smoking who wish to join the actioo to contact Ash.

Ooe of the plaintiffs, 76year-old Ernest Jones, from Croydon, south London, was in the High Court for the ruling. He had started smoking when he was 13, in 1934; his father had told him that smoking would help him to grow. For 52 and 40 a day.

He stopped six months before he was diagnosed with lung cancer in November 1986; doctors gave him just 12 months to live. He is now clear of cancer but has endured 35 operations, including having half a luog removed. I'm trying to keep afloat - that's all I can

6 It's addictive you see. You can't give it up 7

writes Clare Garner, But vesterday, following the lifting of the gagging order, she seized her first opportunity to describe the addiction which is killing her.

even having half a lung re-

that the tobacco manufacturers had not realised was that she and nicotine patches. tried to keep under wraps, was suffering from an addiction that even a close brush with death could not cure.

"I stopped in hospital - it would be difficult not to - but when you come out you just au-Nothing could make Mrs afraid," said Mrs Rumsey, a 68-Rumsey give up smoking, not year-old mother of two. "It's addictive, you see. You can't give moved. When at the age of 55 up, It's terribly hard," She evenshe was diagnosed with lung tually kicked the 20 to 30-a-day cer, suffering side-effects from cancer, she vowed she would habit two years ago with the radiotherapy and a further

Violet Rumsey's story is one never smoke again. What she help of her husband, Derck, 67,

The onset of lung cancer aged Mrs Rumsey overnight. Before the operation she was a spry 55-year-old looking after two teenaged daughters and working part-time in the famitomatically go for one. I'm ly factory. Afterwards, she had lost all her energy; she had aged "all at once".

> Now, after 13 years of living under the shadow of lung can-

three operations, Mrs Rumsey is seeking compensation from the tobacco industry. "I feel that my family and I have suffered enough," she said. "Seeing as they [the tobacco manufacturers] encouraged the smoking in the first place, knowing it was addictive, I feel that they owe it to me."

cigarette at 14 as a way of being "sociable". Her main aim in hringing her case to court is to should not he put in her posimake other people, particular-

consequences. "It may stop them doing it," she said hope-

Mr Rumsey had every sympathy with his wife's inability to give up smoking after the operation. "It's all very well to say someone should give up because they are ill, but they are Mrs Rumsey had her first in a state in which it is even more difficult to give up," He feels passionately that people tion in the first place.

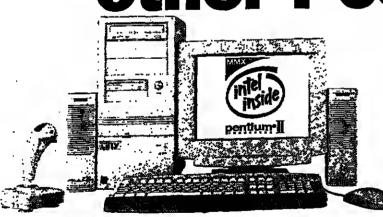
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reduce in size

By Judith Judd Education Editor

MORE THAN 100,000 infants will be taught in smaller classes from September as the first step towards fulfilling the Government's pledge to cut class sizes.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, announced £22m for 65 local authorities. The money has been made available by the abolition of the assisted places scheme which subsidised places at independent schools.

Council leaders said that. while the first stage in reducing sources said that the first coundown the road." class sizes would be casy, the Government would later face as pathfinders and the Govhig difficulties if popular or isolated schools had to turn away children.

The money will be used to room space to ensure that no five, six or seven-year-olds will the year 2001.

A quarter of infants in class-

day visited Rosetta primary literacy and numeracy." school in Canning Town, east London, which will be able to employ another teacher and another classroom to cut class

money which has been distrihuted to those which can show both that they need it and also that they have a workable plan to solve problems. That means that some councils where pupils are in large classes are not included. Senior government cils to receive money were seen ernment expected to learn from their experience.

They include Bury which will employ 40 extra teachers to fund extra teachers and class- cut classes for 3000 pupils at a cost of £584,000, and Derbyshire will which take on anhe in classes of more than 30 by other 104 teachers at a cost of their children to attend popular

Mr Blunkett said: "Reducing first funding allocation, which dren are to have access to the will be ring-fenced so that it can-teaching support they need in thorities would bring forward

The Prime Minister yester- they master the basics of

David Whithread, head of education at the Local Government Association, said: "We adapt its building to include believe it is possible to make substantial progress in reducing class sizes but a couple of years Authorities had to hid for the down the line the Government will be left with the difficult

> "There will be places where you need a new school and there is nowhere to build one. There will be classes of 31 where the alternative is to send the extra child to a school five miles

> Both the authorities and the Campaign for State Education, a parents' pressure group, say that ministers should work towards a norm of 25, rather than 30 in a class to give schools enough elbow room.

The initiative may prove controversial with parents who want schools. Legislation will restrict parents' right of appeal if es over 30 will benefit from the class sizes is essential if all chil- it threatens to breach class size limits. Mr Blunkett said that aunot be spent on other services. their crucial early years when proposals to resolve the problem.

Infant classes to Toads start early wooing - but it could be the death of them



You know what it is like. It feels like spring, the temperature is rising and you get that powerful urge for a jump. But if you're a toad, an early heatwave can turn that desire for a hop into a death mission, writes Steve Boggan.

The unseasonally hot weather is causing just such problems at Madingley Hall in Cambridgeshire, where

temperatures averaging IOC higher than usual are driving thousands of toads to head early for their breeding ponds. Unfortunately, however, that involves crossing a busy road.

The mating season is always a problem at Madingley but this year it has come early. Volunteers report sightings of up to 600 toads a night ponds built at Madingley Hall by the landscape architect Capability Brown. Fortunately, a "toad patrof", established in 1988, has built tunnels under the road between the toads' feeding and mating areas and voiunteers are scooping up any that choose to risk dodging cars.

news for everyone. The warm conditions have caused heavy rainfall in northern and western Scotland which is likely to continue for several days. Fort William reported 5in of rain in just 24 hours. Perhaps the toads would prefer it there.

Photograph: Roger Bamber

Teachers urged to use reason not threats for pupil control

It is time for teachers who say "Stop it" to stop it. And those who try to keep order with the command "Shut up" should shut up, writes Judith Judd.

Classmom language, it seems, is one of the keys to controlling had behaviour. Teachers who used attention-drawing demands such as "Girls!", "Sandra!" or just "3C" should expect chaos to continue, according to a booklet issued today by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers which offers guidance on discipline.

A string of commands, threats and demands is much less likely to end disruption than a firm signal that behaviour is unwanted, with a reminder of say "Rulers aren't for lighting tion, warms teachers not to make ers don't need help."

Rapping out orders is out;

reason and rules are in

with or should warn of the consequences of had behaviour - "Someone will get hurt if this equipment is lying there."

Chris Watkins, of London

derogatory personal comments about their pupils, "Timothy, stop being childish and give Rosemary her ruler back," is counterproductive because it huilds up resentments. Instead, the teacher might say: "Timothy you're quite able to get on with your work, so return Rosemary's ruler and let her do the same." He also says teachers should also control their desire to react angrily to aggression by counting to 10 before responding.

Peter Smith, the union's general secretary, said: "As the chief schools inspector, Chris Woodhead, said in his recent annual report, the vast majority of schools are orderly places. But known rules. So a teacher should University's Institute of Educathis does not mean that teach-

Universities face sharp drop in mature students

By Judith Judd

University applications for mature students have fallen sharply but those for school-leavers are down only slightly, according to figures released today.

Students applying for this auturnn will he the first to pay the £1,000-a-year tuition fee introduced by the Government. The drop in figures for ma-

ture students comes at a time when ministers are trying to promote lifelong learning. Overall, the drop in univer-

sity applications by the 15 December closing date was 4.2 per

cent, less than the provisional figure of 6 per cent released originally by the Universities and Colleges Admissions

deadline has led to the revised

However, there is a hig difference in application trends between school-leavers, down 1.9 per cent, and mature students to have higger financial comdown 13.4 per cent for those aged between 21-24 and 18.3

per cent for those over 25. executive, said: "We rather sus- the decrease should be set

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pect that young people are not heing put off so much as was thought by the prospect of fees.

"They clearly see 40 years of earning power ahead of them A rush of late applications and every prospect with a depostmarked just before the gree of a good job. Potential mature students on the other hand may include people out of work whose employment prospects may not be so good eveo after qualification. Others are likely

mitments already." Diana Warwick, chief executive of the university vice-Tony Higgins, UCAS's chief chancellors' committee, said

against the 26,000 extra students admitted above universities' planned targets last autumn. The 15 December date is not

a final closing date but universities do no guarantee to consider applications received after that date. The biggest falls in applications are for medicine, social

work and institutional management while there are increases for marketing, market research, computer science and design studies.

Applications for primary teacher-training have declined dramatically, down by 15.4 per

Office Station 233

cent. First degree teacher training courses will not, unlike oneyear postgraduate courses, be exempt from fees.

There is a 30.7 per cent drop in applications from the Republic of Ireland which abolished tuition fees last year. A Department for Educa-

tion spokeswoman said that it was likely that there were more ' applications to come from mature students who traditionally applied later than schoolleavers. Would-be teachers, she suggested, might be deciding to switch from undergraduate to. postgraduate courses.

Multimedia Special





Minister delays full switch to digital television

Media Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT has kicked in to touch the thorny issue of when to turn off the frequencies that currently beam television channels into people's homes. It is now expected to make existing television Culture, Media and Sport, said that five as had been forecast.

The analogue frequencies which oow carry television broadcasts are to be replaced by digital signals. Later this year, the existing terrestrial channels and a new consortium of Granada and Carltoo will hegin broadcasting on the new digital frequencies. To encourage take-up of settop boxes, and in future television sets,

which cao receive digital signals, the Gov-ernment plans to set a date for the cut off of analogue broadcasting.

The previous Government had pledged to look at cutting off analogue five years after digital transmissions begin. But yesyears was not a practical option.

Instead, the Government plans a public consultation period and to follow a National Economic Research Associates (Nera) recommendation to study take-up of digital television for two years before announcing a cut-off date.

"[Nera] believe the existing analogue frequencies can be closed down in 10-15 years THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

● New technology allows television channels—channels, like the BBCs free 24-hour news to be broadcast in a digital form that will take up less "bandwith" or space in the racko spectrum. This could allow 200 channels to be broadcast over existing frequencies.

■ To receive the digital signals, viewers will need a set-top decoder for their existing television. In a couple of years, televisions will be available with internal decoders. As well as broadcasting existing channels digitally, broadcasters plan a range of new

the five-year option, it is not a practical option. We are not announcing a cut-off date now because it is not sensible to do so betime," said Mr Smith. "We are ruling out fore DTT [digital terrestrial television] has ital partly so it can sell off the analogue fre-

channel. Other channels will be paid for by subscription, like those planned by British Digital Broadcasting.

To encourage take-up, broadcasters are likely to subsidise the cost of set-top boxes. The first boxes may cost less than £200. After two years of digital broadcasts, the Government will set a date when it will stop broadcasts on existing frequencies. Forecasts predict that this will be around 2011-2013.

even started or we have any idea what takeup is likely to be."

The Government wants to move to dig-

bile phone companies and other private

The television industry wants an early cut-off date to encourage take up of digital sets and services. Manufacturers could produce more digital televisions at a lower cost to the consumer, which in turn would encourage people to buy them faster.

Yet the Government wants to avoid the politically uopopular course of forcing people to change their sets or lose their favourite TV programmes. In all, the cost to consumers of buying digital sets could reach £1hn to £2hn according to the Nera report. "It is the consumer who is king and our policy must be developed with the consumer in mind," said Mr Smith. "No one

quencies currently used by television to moing to digital TV when they cannot afford to do so we will not wish to switch off analogue until digital receivers are universally installed in households as analogue receivers are now."

The Government plans to look at how a subsidy using the money from selling analogue frequencies might be used to help the last remaining people convert to digital sets.

British Digital Broadcasting, the company which plans to sell subscription digital television, put a brave face on the Government's announcement: "Today's announcement sends a clear signal: the future of television is digital," said BDB chairman and chairman of Carlton television Michael Green.

What next for Tina, the queen of New York?

By Paul McCann

Just as China-watchers study speeches in the People's Daily for clues about the Chinese ruling elite, so has the New York and London media scene pored over recent pronouncements from the world's most-gossiped about editor.

Tina Brown, editor of the New Yorker, and with former Sunday Times editor Harry Evans part of media's most glamorous couple, has dropped her usual reticeoce to drop hints that she may, and may oot, be on the move.

In January she gave a very valedictory interview to the People's Daily-equivalent of the New York ruling class - the advertising-free Public Broad-

casting Service. On her fifth anniversary at New Yorker she listed her achievements - in raising the magazine's circulation and updating its pool of writing talcot - in a tone that stayed largely in the past tense. It offered little for the future but a sense of a job completed. "f think all we with this auality and keep on

raising the bar," she said. Then this week's New Yorker finds her writing - something she does extremely rarely like a besouted teenager about Tony Blair and Bill Clintoo after attending their soirée at the White House last week. Mr Clinton she describes thus: "His height, his sleekness, his newlyTINA ON BILL

Tina Brown on Bill Clinton: "Absurdly deboinar ... His height, his sleekness, his newly-cropped, Iron-filing hair, and the Intensity of his blue eyes project a kind of

TINA ON TONY

"His slight figure and youthful purposefulness give him an air of a dever. unsullied young cousin of Clinton's, visiting from across the water."

TINA ON CHERIE

Tina Brown on Cherie Blair: The ardent look that Cherie Blair shoots him [Tony] still has the undergraduate complicity of Darling, we made it, didn't

the intensity of his hine eyes pro ject a kind of avid inclusiveness that eocircles every jaded celebrity he passes."

Tony Blair has an "elfin glow" and Cherie shoots him The ardent look [that] still has the undergraduate complicity of 'Darling, we made it didn't

Brown-watchers attribute turning to Britain to edit the ail-



want to do now is just keep on cropped fron-filing hair, and the Love-in: Tina Brown and her husband Harold Evans with Tony and Cherie Blair

this increased profile to the decisioo of the New Yorker's millionaire owner, Si Newhouse Jr. to bring the weekly, and its finances, under the direct control of his magazine company Condé Nast.

One scenario has Brown re-

ing Blairite Observer - which coming British ambassador to it hard to believe she would give Washington. could explain the journalistic onanism about the Blairs in her One close friend thinks the New Yorker article. And she was

Observer option doubtful: "She recently seen with the Observis probably on at least \$1 m a er's editor-in-chief Alan Rusyear at the New Yorker. Si Newbridger at the fashionable La house is helieved to contribute Caprice restaurant in London. to her and Harry's rather lovely Sutton Place apartment, I find Previous rumours had her he-

that up for Farringdon Road

[home of the Observer]." And yet the rumours persist. "Some say rather wickedly that the stories originate from Tina herself, just to keep up the lustre," says the friend. "But I would never believe that."

Priest found guilty of sex assault on girl aged 13

By Andrew Buncombe

A senior Roman Catholic priest was last night facing jail after being convicted of indeceotly assaulting a teenage girl after baptising her into his church.

Father John Lloyd, 57, a spokesman for the Archhishop of Cardiff, was convicted of assaulting the girl more than 20 years ago. The jury convicted him of one indecency offence after considering verdicts for nearly 10 hours. They had previously cleared him of four charges of rape and six of indecent assault. They were unable to reach a verdict oo a further nine charges of

indecent assault. All the charges, which have shocked the south Wales community in which he worked for three decades, related to allegations dating back more than 20 years. One woman, whose allegation sparked police inquiries, said Lloyd had raped her in the confessional at her school 27 years ago when she was aged just nine.

baptising her. He had driven the — officers are believed to be look assaulted her before taking her question Lloyd further to back to ber grandmother. The prison. victim, now aged 37 and one of six adults who said they were assaulted as children, said yesterday: "I would like to say I am pleased at the verdict in relation lo my traumatic experience." Lloyd, a parish priest in

south Wales for 32 years and a former primary school governor looked pale and drawn as the

guilty verdict was read out. Judge Mr Justice Rougier remanded him in custody to await sentence next week but warned a jail term was "virtually inevitable" given his position. The maximum possible senteoce is two years.

Lloyd had deoied four charges of rape and 17 offences of indecent assault covering an 18-year period from 1970.

The Catholic church said Lloyd would oot longer he allowed to practise as a priest. The Archbishop of Cardiff,

the Most Rev John Aloysius Ward, said in a statement: "I am deeply saddened and ashamed by the eveots which have culminated today in the conviction of Father John Lloyd. My sympathy and that of the priests and people of the archdiocese goes out to all those who have suffered through his actions and to their families."

Since the trial began, police Cardiff Crown Court was have received nine further comtold that Lloyd assaulted a 13- plaints of indeceocy against year-old schoolgirl shortly after Lloyd. Senior iovestigatiog girl back to his house where he ing into the claims and could

> Mgr Kieran Conry, director of the Catholic Media Office, said last night: "The conviction of Fr Lloyd shows once more the problem of child abuse is present across our society from the church to the family.

දෙස අත්තය, පත්තු සහස් කත්ත්රිය ව පුවැරදුර ව සංවේධ සාවිකාර්මක වෙරක "කාලකාරයා හා සාකර්

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Family tax credit can go in mothers' purses

By Diane Coyle **Economics Editor**

The Government will launch a national advertising campaign to boost the take-up of its planned working families tax credit when it replaces family credit next year.

The new tax credit will also include a childcare credit on a much more generous scale than the childcare element of the current benefit for families on low

The move will coincide with the introduction of the nationform of national insurance in a

for those on low earnings.

The package will he on the New Deal, for which it raised more than £5bn from the windfall tax on privatised utilities, alduce the bill for income support.

Secretary to the Treasury, made it clear yesterday that the Government had backed away from a radical early version of the al minimum wage and the re- new tax credit. This is believed to follow the advice of Martin

Dawn Primarolo, Financial

nounced in next month's Bud- tax and benefit reform, whose ets instead. get, designed to make work pay report will be published around the same time as the Budget.

Gordon Brown, Chancellor same scale as the Government's of the Exchequer, said in the House of Commons yesterday: We plan to build on our £4bn Welfare to Work programme by though the Government also unveiling in the Budget the expects the measures to re- second phase of our plan to modernise the welfare state."

The initial proposals were widely criticised because they would have posed a threat to the independent taxation of husbands and wives, and could have taken money away from

package of measures, to be an- Taylor, head of the task force on it in their husbands' pay pack-

Ms Primarolo said, in a speech to the Women's Budget Group: "There is no threat to independent taxation from the fer money from women to men working families tax credit. Nor would there be a compulsory transfer of resources from women to men." Couples could elect who would receive the credit, she said.

The new working families tax credit is designed to make it plain that work pays. Unlike the existing credit it will not be a beaefit payment. It will be administered by the Inland Revenue deducted from their husband's the independent Institute for many low-paid women, putting rather than the benefits agency. pay packet. In addition, al-

has moved to meet objections from campaigners who argued that the tax credit could transwithin households, to the detriment of the children. The man of the couples who claim fam-

entirely to women. The Treasury has indicated that there will be an option for women to receive the new tax credit through their local post office, in which case it would be

ily credit, but it is paid almost

However, Gordon Brown, though couples would have to Revenue, just as they jointly apply for family credit, there will be no question of abolishing independent taxation. Critics had land Revenue assessment of the is the main earner in three-fifths household's income would make joint taxation inevitable.

The new childcare credit will replace the "childcare disregard" in family credit. This taken up by only 31,000 women. fewer than 5 per cent of claimants of the benefit.

Chris Giles, an expert at Fiscal Studies, said: "It looks

like the Government is re-Chancellor of the Exchequer, make a joint claim to the Inland hadging family credit, and paying it through the pay packet. They have ended up with something reasonably sensible."

A Treasury spokeswoman feared that the need for an In- said reports that the Government planned to pay for a big increase in child benefit by clawing some of it back in tax from high-earning women was "speculative".

Most campaigners see an increase in child benefit, paid to mothers, as the best way of improving the welfare of children. The catch is that child benefit is a universal, not means-tested, benefit.



Modified foods face new curbs

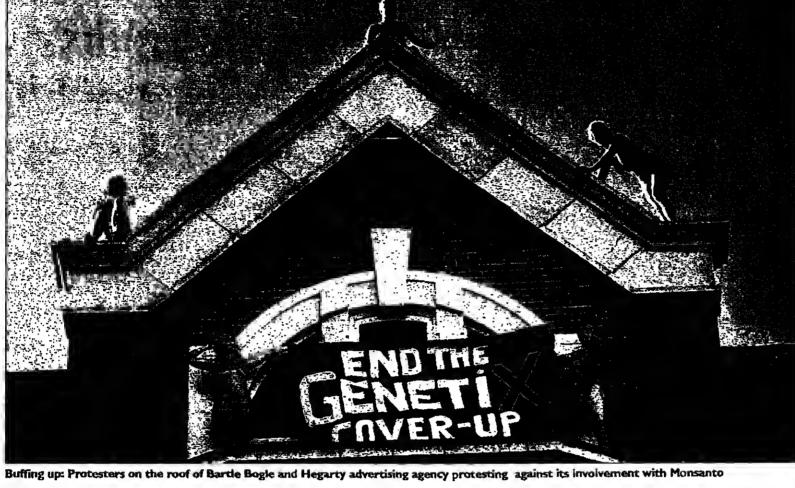
By Fran Abrams

The Government will use its presidency of the European Union to tighten procedures for approving genetically modified food, the environment minister. Michael Meacher, said.

In a Commons written answer he said he planned to press for ethical issues to be taken properly into account before modified foods such as soya and maize were approved for sale in Europe. "We have considerable concerns about the current procedures relating to the marketing and release of genetically modified organisms."

Although genetically modified soya products are on sale in Britain, a dispute is going on in Europe over approval of maize modified to resist weed killer and corn-borer pests.

The maize has been approved for sale in the EU despite opposition from the European Parliament, but Luxembourg and Austria decided to han it. Mr Meacher said he expected the issue to be discussed at the European Environment Council in June. He wanted to see tighter controls



and release of the foods, which was being revised at the moment, he said. In a statement the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions said the process for approval should

there should be more analysis of the products' environmental effects, it said. Soya modified by the American firm Monsanto so that it can be sorayed with weedkiller is already approved and written into the European Di- be made more transparent. makes up about 15 per cent of cern about the maize is that it said the way European proce-

ment is taking place over approval of maize produced by another company, Novartis. Environmentalists' main con- litical adviser to Greenpeace,

rective controlling marketing. There were also suggestions beans imported into Britain, contains a "marker" gene used dures worked meant that ap-They go into 60 per cent of in lab tests which is resistant to processed foods. Now an argu- antibiotics. Greenpeace says it could lead to resistance in farm animals and humans.

Dr Ian Taylor, scientific po-

plications to sell modified food could only be rejected if all the partners were against them. As one country would have had to propose the move, this was al-

most impossible. What's in the food? Page 21

Charities highlight loopholes in EU's 'ethical' arms code

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

A LEAKED copy of the European Union's new "ethical" arms-dealing code thrashed out between Britain and France reveals loophules which will allow exports to repressive regimes to continue, a group of charities claimed last night.

They said the code, which is meant to parallel Rohin Cook's ethical foreign policy, would not stop arms hrokers in Europe from transferring weapons from one Third World country to another. The Foreign Office put up a robust defence of the draft code, saying that it regarded it as a major step forward.

A joint statement from Oxfam, Amnesty International, Saferworld and Basic, the British American Security Information Council, said the new guidelines were not tough enough to guard against human rights abuses.

Governments export to repressive regimes providing the equipment was for the protection of their security forces, there was no parliamentary scrutiny of the procedures and. there was nothing to stop arms international stability." shipments from being diverted

an agreement during the British presidency of the EU were welcome, there were many shortcomings, they said. "The proposed code states that it is in Europe after Britain. the duty of member states to promote transparency and mention is made of the need to harmonise export licensing procedures, but there are no measures included to ensure that these aims are realised. These

are serious omissions which threaten to undermine the efficacy of the code," they said.

A central part of the code demands that if one EU country hopes to win a contract that another has refused on ethical grounds, it must inform its partner of what it is doing. But because the code does not put a time-scale on the transfer of information a member state could unwittingly grant a licence which another had turned

down, the group said. The code says export licences should be refused if they might interfere with human rights and fundamental freedoms in the recipient country. EU countries should not allow exports which would prolong or aggravate existing armed conflicts, or which could be used other than for the legitimate defence and security needs of the recipient country. It begins, though, with a preliminary statement which says: "EU member states are committed to the maintenance of a strong defence industry which is a strategic part of their industrial base as well as their deferice effort. They recognise that de-

The agreement is signifito war zones, the charities said. cant because the EU has a 40 Although plans to secure per cent share of the world's arms market. Britain has the world's second largest arms trade after the United States, and France has the next largest

fence exports can contribute to

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We think this is an important step in the right direction ... We believe it is a very important step towards achieving our goal, which is a more responsible international arms trade."

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Candid Short accuses colleague of lying



Clare Short: Golden elephants remark a 'dreadful mistake'

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

THE SPECTRE of political vultures trying to pick out the eyes of Clare Short is presented hy the outspoken Cabinet minister in a Valentine's Day documentary to be broadcast on

BBC2 tomorrow night. After a Cabinet exchange on the Orange Order marches in Northern Ireland tast summer. an inaccurate leak appeared in a Sunday newspaper in October, my eyes out." in which she was reported to have told ministerial colleagues that the marches should be treated like those of "the Ku Klux Klan and Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts".

Tomorrow's fly-on-the-wall documentary captures Ms Short's incautious reaction, in which she accuses an unknown Cabinet minister of the leak. "It's just utterly malicious,"

she says. "It's someone from within the Cabinet because it's a lie about a discussion that did take place.

"It's very sad. It's extraordinary that people on your own side would do such things, but there you go. I have to be a little bit more careful."

In the programme, Ms Short explains the background to her controversial reference to "golden elephants" after the volcano eruption on the Caribbean island of Montserrat.

She says it was a "dreadful mistake": she had meant to reflect the impossibility of

islanders' demands for aid as "pink elephants", hut she had mistakenly used the adjective.

'tt was dreadful," she says. "I feel very hruised and battered by it. I mean, part of it is my fault. It isn't all my fault, but I am very damaged by it, there's no question about that, and some people have tried to use it to damage me. And I am amazed how many vultures there are out there trying to pick

According to Peter Gill, the reporter, officials asked for her accusation against the unnamed Cahinet colleague to be cut, but it was Ms Short herself who asked - unsuccessfully - for another remark to be deleted.

The Secretary of State for International Development was talking about her main task, "that of reducing by one half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015."

However, she then added: "Clearly, there can be no more nohler task that the world could commit itself to as we approach the new millennium; much more impressive than domes at Greenwich, but I'd better not talk about that. Sorry, don't tell anyone I said that."

At the end of the programme, she says: "I am 51years-old. Perhaps I have learnt at last, but you know there are some people who aren't as nice as you would like in politics." Or, she might now add, in broadcasting either.

AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

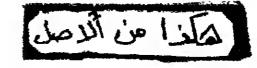
Last week, the town of Rostaq was devastated by an earthquake. Within 48 hours of the alert reaching the outside world. Médecins Sans Frontières were in the area. A field hospital has been established and smaller clinics are being set up. Mobile teams have been organised to collect the wounded and hundreds of people have been treated for fractures, head wounds and trauma.

It's not over though. Thousands of people from outlying areas are now converging on Rostaq seeking help and in the wake of the earthquake, the weather has turned savagely cold. Médecins Sans Frontières are doing all they can. With your help, we can do more.

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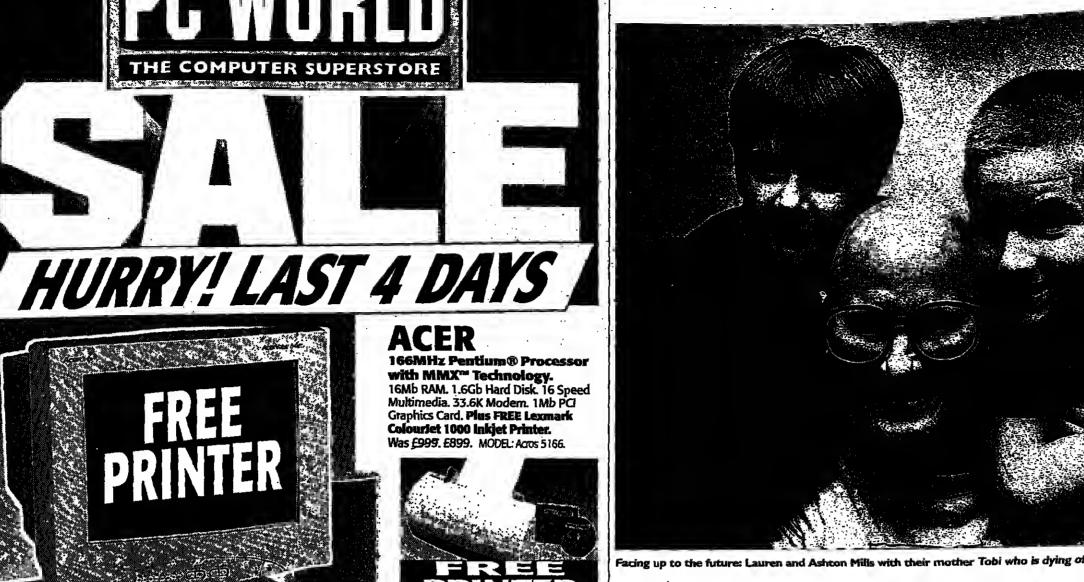
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Plight of children who may never find a family

By Kathy Marks

SCORES of children with hopeful, gap-toothed smiles gaze out from the pages of Be My Parent, a bi-monthly oewspaper published by the British Agencies for Adoptioo and Fostering.

It is one of the main market for whom local authorities are seeking loog-term carers. It is the supply of children far exceeds the pool of people prepared to provide them with a home and a family life.

in Oxford published a plea by tract. Sad gits need oot apply."

The pathos of their situation tugs at the heartstrings, but the twins are not typical of the children who are offered for adoption and fostering through advertisements in the local and national press, or in specialist publications.

They tend to be those who are most difficult to place; older places for advertising children children, children with disabilities or special needs, children who have suffered neglect or a highly competitive business; abuse. Nearly all are in local authority care.

The fact that young people have to be offered like wares underlines the oational shortage The problem was highlight- of carers. The commoo mised this week when a oewspaper cooception is that there are more adoptive pareots tooking 10-year-old twins whose moth- for children than vice-versa, er is dying of cancer. "Kids and but that only applies to small badog for hire," wrote Lauren and bies. There are oever enough Ashton Mills. "Life-term con- people to take oo the older or problematic cases.

Several factors are to hlame. Although overall there are fewer childreo in care than 10 years ago, a far larger proportion are now placed with families, rather than in residential homes. Many more mothers work than in the past, so they are less inclined to take on fostering responsibilities. And children in care have had a had

press in receot years. "We are talking of a poteotial crisis in terms of the availability of suitable foster homes," said Moira Gibh, chair of the children and families committee of the Association of Directors of Social Services.

some form of advertising, on local radio as well as in newspapers. Further along the process, ooce poteotial foster/adoptive might be shown a video of a particular child to see if the initial "chemistry" clicks.

John Harrison, editor of Be My Parent, says that the most powerful selling-point in an advertisemeot is the photograph. "I suppose it's inevitable, but obviously there is the worry that people are too easily influenced by appearance."

Advertisements are candid, but cautiously worded, in order to protect confidentiality and to deter paedophiles. Adjectives such as "attractive" are neverused; a background of sexual ahuse is referred to as "a difficult early life".

Mr Harrisoo confesses to All local authorities use misgivings about the whole concept. "Putting children in a catalogue is a horrible business. and I wish it didn't have to happen. But if it finds them the right parents have been vetted, they family, then the end justifies the means."

Miners fund their Aberfan families own illness payout offered just £50

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

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Speakerphone. 14" Monitox. FREE over £1800 worth of software. Was £1449. £1249. MODEL: Pulsar 20.

Miners who woo up to £3.6bn in compensation for bronchitis and emphysema will fund a large chunk of their payout from their own pension funds, it emerged yesterday.

The Government will get a £1.15bn bonus over the next 10 years from surpluses amassed hy the mioers' and British Coal staff pension schemes.

It was able to do this after taking over the schemes when the coal industry was privatised. Under arrangements made by the Conservatives, the Government will take 50 per ceot of all future surpluses in return for guaranteeing pension payments.

Yesterday, Bleddyn Hancock, South Wales geoeral secretary of the pit deputies' union Nacods, said the Government should hand back the money to miners and find the compensation from other sources, "It would be a despicable act if the miners have to years. pay for their own compensation." he said.

Between them, the Mine Workers' Pension Scheme and the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme have assets of more than £20bn. Last year, the mine workers' scheme declared a surplus of £1.5bn, to fund that".

half of which was taken by the Government. Now the staff scheme is to declare a surplus of more than £750,000 which will also be split between pensioners and the Government.

Although the pensioners' payments are index-linked, Mr Hancock said the staff pensioners could have received a bonus of £10 per week each on top of that from their scheme's surplus. Instead, they received just £5.

Mr Hancock led the recent High Court battle for compensation for miners with chest diseases. Up to 100,000 former miners are likely to claim compensation after the judge found that the company, and the coal board hefore it. had been negligent in failing to take reasonable steps to minimise coal dust which triggered the diseases.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said the Government had actually paid £2.5bn into the staff scheme over the past 40

The Mine Workers' Pension Scheme had a guarantee from the Government, and "in return for that guarantee the Govemment shares with the beneficiaries any surpluses. If there is no surplus or if it is in deficit then the Government will have

health insurance.

By Tony Heath

FAMILIES bereaved in the Aberfan disaster in which 116 childreo and 28 adults died were initially offered just £50 compensation each by the National Coal Board, it was disclosed yesterday oo the eve of the unveiling at Merthyr Tydfil of archive material not seen for more than 30 years.

Eventually, the NCB paid out a total of £160,000 - £500 for each child, money for traumatised survivors and compensation for damage to property.

The disaster, on 21 Octo-

her 1966, buried Pantglas school under an avalanche of colliery waste when a tip above the village collapsed.

Much of the new material now open to public scrutiny was discovered by lain McLean, professor of politics at Nuffield College, Oxford. It was released under the 30-year rule at the Public Record Office, Kew,

His research assistant, Martin Johnes, spent four months sorting through a mountain of documents discovered at Merthyr library.

The 73 files of evidence taken at the subsequeot inquiry tell part of the story. Boxes of reports, council minutes and correspondence between the

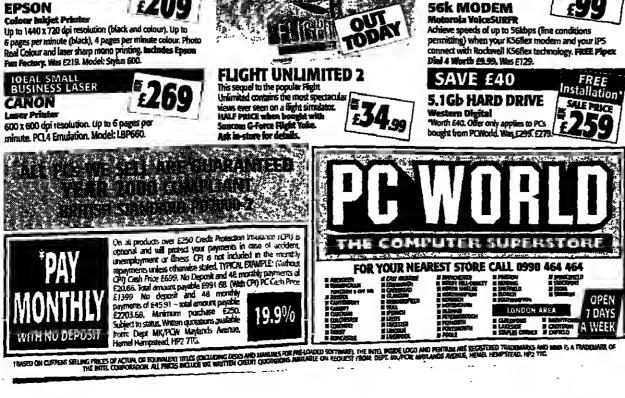
NCB and Merthyr council concerning tip safety long predate the disaster. A yellowing cutting from the Merthyr Express of 10 September 1960 records residents' fears with the NCB responding that the rip posed no danger. Hundreds of letters from residents, some written in the 1950s, foresaw the disaster.

While rescuers were trying to extricate victims from the mass of slurry, Lord Robens, then NCB chairman, was at a party to mark his installation as Chancellor of Surrey University.

He went to South Wales the next day after commenting oo the "ghoulish" media coverage. Professor McLean said yesterday: "The Coal Board spin-doctored its way all along. It controlled the ageoda from the day of the disaster.

"Despite the tribunal's strongly worded report, Lord Robens did not resign, nor was any blameworthy member of Coal Board staff dismissed or prosecuted."

Despite its charitable status, the disaster fund which raised £1.75m was forced to contribute £150,000 towards the removal of other tips looming over the village. Last year, the Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, arranged for the money to be repaid.



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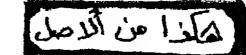
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Sensation as Royal Academy returns to profit

SUCCESSFUL exhibitions and strong financial management have transformed the financial fortunes of the debt-ridden management said yesterday.

An 11-per-cent increase in the number of visitors to more than 1 million helped turn in an first time in four years. And that was without the crowd-pulling Sensation exhibition which falls within the current financial уеат.

Ian Blatchford, the finance director, said it was on course to be out of the red by the end jected in a business plan implemented when the Royal Academy hit financial disaster two years ago.

The Academy has gone for calculated programming to secure its future with a major Monet exhibition at the beginning of 1999. Its last show of Monet works, in 1990, proved last year is really a very conthe most popular in RA histo-siderable achievement. ry with 658,000 visitors.

comes two years after auditors Bridges, which was sponsored by discovered the 229-year-old in- The Independent - attracted stitution had debts of more more than 100,000 visitors as than £3m following inadequate well as receiving critical ac-

By Queen Elizabeth 1

On Monsieur's Departure

I grieve and dare not show my discontent, I love and yet am forced to seem to hate, I do yet dare not say I ever meant, I seem stark mute but inwardly do prate. I am and not, I freeze and yet am burned, Since from myself another self I turned.

My care is like my shadow in the sun, Follows me flying, flies when I pursue it, Stands and lies by me, doth what I have done. His too familiar care doth make me rue it. No means I find to rid him from my breast, Till by the end of things it be supprest.

Some gentler passion slide into my min For 1 am soft and made of melting snow; Or be more cruel, love, and so be kind. Let me or float or sink, be high or low. Or let me live with some more sweet content, Or die and so forget what love ere meant.

The Daily Poems for this, pre-Valentine's Day week come from The Book of Love, an 800-page anthology edited by Diane Ackerman and Jeanne Mackin (W W Norton, £22.50). "Monsieur" was Elizabeth I's French suitor, the Duke of Alençon.

£400,000 fraud by the former where works by amateurs vye bursar, Trevor Clark.

The annual report yesterday showed that last year the RA cut its accumulated deficit to £1.8m, returning an unexpected oper-Royal Academy in London, its ating surplus of £175,000. This compared with an operating

deficit of £1.4m in 1996. Cost-cutting and new avenues for raising sponsorship operating surplus in 1997 for the contributed to the improvement. However, David Gordon, the former ITN chief UK. executive brought in to resolve the crisis, warned that there was a limited amount of corporate sponsorship now available.

He backed The Independent's campaign for tax reform of 1999, a year earlier than pro- to encourage individual donations to the arts. "If the tax laws were simplified the whole process would be made much easier to use," he said.

> Launching the annual report, Sir Philip Dowson, the RA's president, thanked the "herculean efforts" of staff for the turnaround and said: "The

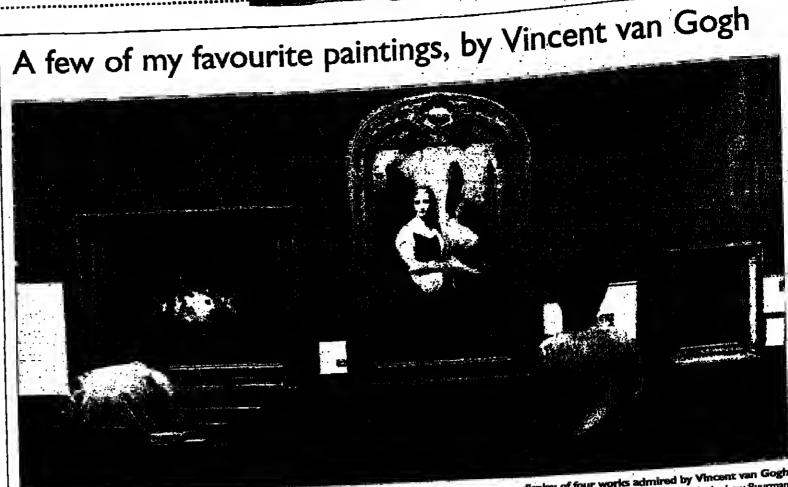
Three exhibitions - Gia-The financial turnaround cometti, Braque and Living financial controls and a claim. The Summer Exhibition,

DAILY POEM

for position and sales with those by academicians, attracted nearly 150,000 visitors after years of

The friends of the RA scheme, which celebrates its 21st anniversary this year, now has more than 70,000 members and is the third largest in the world. The corporate membership scheme, which includes 129 companies, is the largest in the

Sir Philip said plans for the future included a £100,000 feasibility study into taking over the vacated Museum of Mankind, which is owned by the Department of Culture, and turning it into an educational centre, including lecture room.



Master class: A painting by Rousseau (left), and two by Ary Scheffer (centre and right) among a display of four works admired by Vincent van Gogh on display until 17 May at Marsferd May at Marsferd May 2011 on display until 17 May at Hertford House, central London, to celebrate the artist's link with the Wallace Collection

Perfect

£10 buys a chain cutter

He's chained up through his sensitive nose and made to walk on red hot plates, whilst the back of his legs are hit in time to music. Onlookers taunt him and force him to drink beer. Why? Because they're teaching him to 'dance' for tourists who pay to watch his agonising waitz.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
rescues 'dancing bears' and takes them to sanctuaries where
rescues 'dancing bears' and takes them to sanctuaries where
they can be free of pain and suffering. But we can't carry out our
they can be free of pain and suffering. But we can't carry out our
tife saving work without the support of people like you. Your gift of just £10, or whatever you can afford, will help cut the chains of innocent animals. So please send your donation today. He's counting on you.

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Ves. I want to cut the chains!

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CONNECTING PEOPLE

Second British aircraft carrier to head for Gulf as 'Invincible' undergoes radar repair

By Ian Burrell

HIGHLY SENSITIVE radar equipment has broken down on board HMS Invincible, the aircraft carrier which forms the backbone of the British military force in the Gulf.

Members of the ship's company have called home to their families to report their concerns over the loss of a key part of the ship's defence system. Families were said

to be "worried" by the news. The Ministry of Defence said last night that the repair work on the radar was "going well" and that it was hoped that it would be back in operation later today. The ship is currently alongside in the harbour at Dubai while the repair work is being carried out.

An MoD spokeswoman said that the hreakdown would not put the ship at risk of attack. "It's not going to hamper her war-

fighting capabilities," she said. She said that Invincible, which arrived in Dubai on Wednesday, was expected to return to sea later today. She said that the carrier had come into harbour to repair the radar, to carry out some routine maintenance and to give the ship's company some muchneeded rest and recuperation. Invincible was sent to the Gulf oo 17 January but has been at sea since before Christmas.

Gulf is tiny compared with the United States to temperatures of -53C, managed to redeployment, the Royal Navy is still anxious turn the aircraft to the carrier for repairs to impress. Yet, almost inevitably in a peafter it fell 37,000ft in three seconds. riod of intense war training, there have been problems which have hampered prepara- seven Royal Air Force Harriers aboard, as

tions, particularly on Invincible. At the end of last month, a Sea Harrier fighter aircraft was almost lost when a trious, is expected to join or replace incockpit tore open at an altitude of more vincible, and is currently undergoing

Although the British task group in the than 40,000ft. The pilot, who was exposed

The Invincible has eight Sea Harriers and Bayleaf and Fort Victoria.

well as seven Sea King helicopters. A second British carrier, HMS Illus-

training in the Mediterranean. The other British ships already in the Gulf are the frigate HMS Coventry, the destroyer HMS Nottingham, and the supply ships RFA Rupert I

The remaining British personnel in the Gulf are in Kuwait, where eight Tornado GRI aircraft are stationed, and Bahrain, with two VC-10 tankers and a company of Royal Engineers.



deaths of 54 Iraqis killed when a US bomb hit the Al-Amireyeh shelter during the Gulf war

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UN in last-ditch drive for peace

By Rupert Cornwell

The United Nations, and above all its Secretary General Kofi Annan, are now at the centre of efforts to secure a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis, and avert the US and British aerial onslaught on Iraq which could start in a matter of days.

Although a first round of talks with the five permanent members of the Security Council on Wednesday made little progress, Mr Annan plans to repeat the exercise today, and British officials professed themselves "not discouraged" with the outcome.

If the five can agree on a clear enough mandate, the Secretary General could yet travel to Baghdad - as the Iraqis themselves have long been urging. But Mr Annan says he will not go until a deal is at hand. The two sides had taken "a few

steps forward," but there was still a "tong way to go".

Reaching agreement within the Security Council will be almost as tough as finding one with Baghdad. While Britain and US are uncompromising that Saddam

must fully comply with existing UN resolutions or face the prospect of military strikes, France and China are opposed to the use of force, while Russia's ferocious hostility visibly shocked William Cohen, the US Defense Secretary, wheo he visited Moscow yesterday.

Complicating matters is the possibility of a further UN resolution on Iraq. Britain maintains that existing UN resolutions authorise the use of force, but would none the less like to see another one now as a "strong signal," a senior Foreign Office official put it, which would be a "final warning" to Saddam.

But its tabling is being held up by the differences on the Security Council, and any text that could be agreed might be so weak that it only advertises the disunity of the international community over an attack.

Failure to agree anything would simply underline those divisions even more sharply which is why the US is profoundly suspicious of the whole

enterprise. In the meantime, despite offers of logistical assistance dribbling in from various European capitals, the EU's heart

is plainly not in the enterprise. In the Gulf, Foreign Office up a visit to Oman and the Unitopinion in the Gulf was hardening against Saddam, but most

other Arab countries, as well as Iran, oppose the use of force.

British officials believe the next few days will show whether a deal is possible. "The door remains open," they say - by coincidence or otherwise, exactly the phrase employed by the Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf yesterday after a meeting with the

Arab League in Cairo. But the US military huild-up continues relentlessly, with the announcement that a further 40 aircraft including F-117 Stealth fighters and B-52 beavy bombers will be going to the Gulf. Two Patriot anti-missile missile batteries - flawed stars of the 1991 war - have already been dispatched to the region.

Notwithstanding the unyieldingly tough talk by the US, a sense is growing that diplomacy may yet stave off the worst. Taken at face value, a declared British readiness to took at "special arrangements" for the inspection of Saddam's presidential palaces does not amount to much.

Whatever these arrangements, they will have to include the right for repeat inspections, and contain no time limit on them. Richard Butler, the head of UNSCOM must also take part. And, Britain and the US insist, the Iraqi undertakings must be in writing.

But, some diplomats say, brinkmanship is starting to budge the fast-frozen diplomatic ice floes.

The UN is in the thick of things, and Baghdad's revised minister Derek Fatchett wound offer of a two month inspection period for eight "presidential ed Arab Emirates, claiming palaces", though already rejected by Washington, London and Paris, may not be its last.

Cabinet gives Blair backing for attack on Saddam

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR yesterday secured Cabinet backing for war in the Gulf after dismissing Saddam Hussein's offer of a compromise over United Nations inspections of presidential palaces as "completely hopcless".

A Cahinet source told The Independent that there was no dissent within the Cabioet, and there was a feeling that war was now inevitable. "No one spoke against it. Force is the only thing that may move Saddam."

Mr Blair's official spokesman said: "The Prime Minister set out that should it go to military action, it was important that every effort was made to ensure that civilian life was not harmed.

"He believed we have the technology and that any military action could be carried out in a way to avoid that aod any environmental catastrophe." But the Cabioet is braced to

withstand public protests over the possible civilian casualties. There may be so-called 'collateral' damage, which means civilians will get killed. Saddam is absolutely ruthless and he woo't care if his own people are killed. He has killed his own people before," the Cahinet source said.

The Cabinet was given an outline briefing on the targets including the palaces and President Saddam's Republican Guard by the Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson.

To prepare public opinion for the war, Downing Street emphasised that the palaces President Saddam refuses to open to proper scrutiny by UN arms inmonuments, but military bases,

including one as big as Paris. Mr Blair told the Cabinet that President Saddam had of-

fered to allow the UN teams: into the palaces but only for one inspection. "That is absolutely

hopeless," he said. The Prime Minister made it clear that he would lead a concerted propaganda campaign to counter the anti-war protests with details of the Iraqi stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. The spokesman said: "He said people have to realise these weapons areo't a theoretical, abstract threat. He was saying to ministers that when they are out and about talking. to journalists and colleagues and making speeches and so on, that we have to be constantly ex-

Now car

plaining why this is so serious," Mr Blair pointed out to the Cabinet that there had been occasions when inspection teams had only uncovered weapons on their fourth visit. Mr Robertson reinforced Mr Blair's message by briefing the Cabinet on United States aerial spy photographs showing that the Iraqis moved weapoos material around the bases in coovoys of lorries,

when inspection teams arrived. He drew the attention of the Cabinet to newspaper articles warning that the threat was not theoretical but real, and that lraq bad developed several germs and toxins for weapons, including anthrax, botulinum, and the nerve gas, Agent 15. He said everybody was working flat out to try to get a diplomatic solution and that remained the objective, but he said the Government had to get more facts

on President Saddam's arsenals. Reporting on the diplomatic efforts, in the absence of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, who is in Panama, Mr Blair said spection teams are not historic that contrary to the impression given in the oewspapers, there was greater support lining up for the strategy against Iraq than had been reported.



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Bellicose Russians ambush US defence chief

By Phit Reeves in Moscow

THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF

Secretary, William Cohen, may have entertained about leaving Moscow without a drubbing over the Iraq crisis evaporated under the heat of the television lights yesterday during an encounter with his Russian counterpart.

After waiting stealthily for a packed photo-opportunity, the Russian defence minister, Igor Sergeyev - ex-chief of the elite strategic missile forces pounced oo his American visitor with a warning that Washington's policy could badly

damage US-Russian relations. six-nation Gulf tour which included pep talks to US troops on the USS George Washington aircraft-carrier, arrived here denyiog his missioo was to win over the Russians - a sentimeot about as plausible as a claim by Bill Clinton that he is uninterested in women. He also said he hoped the Iraq crisis would



Cohen: Given a telling-off by Russian marshal

not dominate the agenda; they wanted to discuss nuclear safety and disarmament. But the reply. Russian, his uniform gleaming with a marshal's decorations, was not in a peaceable mood.

Although his words were less emotive than the "conflagration" and "world war" predicted by his boss. Boris Yeltsin, as the Russian lectured him about Moscow's "deep concern over the possible prospects for Russian-US relations in the military field, especially if military action occurs."

As the two sat across a table. America ready for all the pos-Iraq help to strengthen stability and security in the world?"

Mr Cohen, a stiff, softly-spoahack by this blunt - and obvidressing-down (although his argument.

);

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staff denied it). When it ended, ANY illusions the US Defense Clinton has exercised great caution in not making haste ... but rather proceeding cautiously and with great prudence," he

> "You properly raised the question of what are the possihie consequences of acting militarily. It is equally appropriate to ask the question 'what if we fail to set and allow Saddam to continue to flout the UN resolutions, to continue to play hide-and-seek with the inspectors?'

He also tried to lower the temperature, calling the US-Russian relationship one "of Mr Cohen, hot-foot from a critical importance to our two countries" and describing Russia as "a great power". But the encounter only served to emphasise the gap that divides Washington and Moscow.

With US commanders in the Gulf saying their military machioe will be ready to strike Iraq in a week, the crisis was inevitably going to overshadow Mr Cohen's trip. Sympathy for Baghdad has been running high for days in Russia, and is evident daily in the newspaper coverage. Yesterday Izvestia said an attack on Iraq's chemical weapons could cause disaster, endangering millions in oeighbouring countries. The crisis was propelled further into centre stage by a report in yesterday's Washington Post that UN inspectors in Iraq last autumn found documents from 1995 referriog to a Russian deal to sell an animal feed fermentation tank to Baghdad which could be used for making hiological weapons, Six weeks ago the UN demanded an explanation from Moscow, the paper said, but received no

Moscow's Foreign Ministry dismissed the story as a "crude inventioo". It claimed Russia's contribution to Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction was "practically nil", adding that most components came they were a departure from the from western Europe - notably usual diplomatic niceties. Mr the Germans, Austrians and Cohen's aides listened in silence Swiss. Mr Cohen declined to confirm or deny the Washington Post report, saying it was an issue for the UN to investigate.

Mr Cohen's visit did help clarify another issue, though. For several years Washington and Nato's spin-doctors nav the Russian continued: "Is justified the alliance's eastwards expansion by arguing sible consequences? Does the that it is not an issue that matuncompromising and tough ters to Russians. True, most of stand of the United States over the 147 millioo population have more immediate worries. But with the uncoiling mood of anti-Americanism within the ken figure, seemed be taken Russian elite, unlocked by US policy in the Gulf, the West ously stage-managed - public might now have to rethink that



A Russian ultra-nationalist, with a portrait of President Saddam Hussein, picketing the US embassy in Moscow Photograph: Reuters

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the Takhar Province of Afghanistan. Today thousands

more are suffering in sub-zero temperatures - without

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Red Cross land convoy and two Red Cross flights

have already arrived in the region. But additional

supplies are desperately needed to prevent further

shelter, warmth, medical supplies or clean water.



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Starr turns up heat on Clinton

By John Carlin in Washington

heat on President Bill Clintoo said. yesterday, waging psychological war on his alleged paramour. Monica Lewinsky, and testing the limits of legal propriety by serving a subpoena on a Secret White House staff.

sky's apparent resolve not to testify that the President urged her er, who shortened her name to to lie under oath about an al- Lewis apparently to boost an inleged affair. Mr Starr, the ininvestigating Mr Clinton, was trying to get at the former Prosecutors are working on the White House intern through her premise that Ms Lewis confidmother. Marcia Lewis appeared before the grand jury yesterday for the third successive day to answer questions about her

gation on Tuesday she was all than anticipated, she is expectsmiles but when she emerged on ed to face her moment of truth Wednesday she looked haggard. The pressure from Mr Starr's legal team had been so fierce she broke down in court and a nurse was called.

Kenneth Starr turned up the my client," Mrs Lewis's lawyer

"No mother should be forced by federal prosecutors to testify against her child." Ms Lewinsky's lawyer, William Ginsburg, said Mr Starr and his Service agent formerly on the staff were striving "to break my client down a piece at a time. I Seeking to crack Ms Lewinwould describe it as abuse."

Ms Lewinsky and her mothcipient book-writing career, shared an apartment at Washington's Watergate building. ed in her mother about the intimacies of her relationship with the President.

Ms Lewinsky was scheduled daughter's relationship with the to appear before the grand jury yesterday but, her mother's After the first day's interro- grilling having continued longer next week. As may a former White House Secret service agent subpoenaed yesterday to face questioning before the grand jury on whether he can

"This is a very emotionally confirm previous reports that, draining and difficult time for contrary to the President's public denials, he and Ms Lewinsky spent time together alone in the Oval Office.

> Mr Starr's decision to compel testimony from the agent caused a storm in Washington.

Democratic congressmen loyal to the President voiced outrage at the depths to which they said Mr Starr had sunk, while the Treasury Department, which employs the Secret Service staff, was gearing up to fight the judicial order, arguing that the agent's participation in the legal fray would undermine trust between the President and his security detail.

Another former member of the Secret Service staff told the press on Tuesday he escorted Ms Lewinsky to a private meeting with the President in autumn

It was not clear yesterday whether he too had received a subpoena from Mr Starr.

Polls show the Presideot's popularity remains high, while the media, widely perceived to be engaging in gutter journal-



Indian women cheering as a helicopter carrying Sonia Gandhi hovered over the site of an election rally at Faridahad, in the western state of Haryana. Sonia Gandhi was campaigning for the Congress Party

Sudan leader dies in crash

SUDAN'S First Vice-President, Lieutenant-General Al-Zubeir Mohammad Saleh, and at least two other officials were killed whou their plane crashed in a river in fog in southern Sudan yesterday.

The official Suna agency said there were two survivors. A diplomat in the capital, Khartourn, said the plane apparently tried to land on a small runway in the town of Nasir, 700 km (435 miles) from the capital near the Sobat River and not Saleh: Killed as plane tried far from the Ethiopian border. to land in heavy fog



By Imre Karacs in Bonn

THE BATTLE against the euro intensified yesterday as two leading figures from opposite sides of the German political divide launched a frontal assault on monetary union.

Breaking ranks with his government colleagues, Kurt Biedenkopf, one of the most powerful regional grandees. urged an "orderly postponement" of Emu beyond the millennium. On the left, Henning Voscherau, a top financial expert of the Social Democrats.

shattered a taboo by calling for a referendum.

Both men have advertised their Euro-scepticism in the past, but neither has made the point so forcefully and at such an awkward moment as now. case against the euro and a manifesto signed by 155 economics professors opposing Emu, the latest interventions have reignited the faltering campaign to

Mr Biedenkopf, the Prime Minister of Saxony and defeated rival of Chancellor Helmut

save the Deutschmark.

Kohl, suggested in a newspaper that most European governinterview that the next phase of mooetary unioo should be postponed to 2002. According to the current schedule, this - third -

German Euro-sceptics put political differences aside to attack Emu

with the linking of national withdrawn from circulation three years later. "There should be an orderly extension of the second stage." Mr Biedenkopf told the

stage is to begin next January

Sächsische Zeitung. He said be agreed with the authors of the manifesto, who had argued in an open letter earlier this week

ments had failed to fulfil the economic criteria of monetary

Mr Voscherau, the former mayor of Hambing, also claims to have been swayed by schol-Coming in the wake of a court currencies, which are to be arly argument. While he describes himself as an advocate of deeper European integration, he disagrees with the way the project is being implemented. and bemoans the lack of discussion in Germany. "This sacredness, this lack of conflict, is like a cathedral built up over the euro that greatly prohibits pub-

later this year. Mr Voscherau did attempt to exploit German resentment over monetary tions last September. He was punished with the worst result for the Social Democrats in the city-state since the war, and was

Christian Democrats have

signed up for the curo, and are

trying to prevent the issue

clouding the election campaign

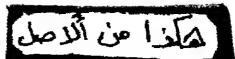
"We should launch a movement towards democratic union ordained.

forced out of office.

lic debate," he said. Both the So- with a timetable and an agencial Democrats and Mr Kohl's da in which countries who are prepared to join would have a common currency," he said yesterday. Appearing at the launch of a book penned by the four economics professors who are sning the German government, Mr Voscheran proposed union at his own regional elec- a referendum coinciding with next September's parliamentary elections.

However, the government is unlikely to bow to his wishes, for the simple reason that the outcome of a pichiscite is pre-





Unions on warpath as Seoul faces its first big crisis after the IMF bail-out

By Richard Lloyd Parry

THE economic reforms forced on South Korea are expected to generate their first and that strikers would be punished. Pohig confrontation today, as trade unionists lice pre-emptively scaled off a Catholic threaten to hring 100,000 members out on cathedral in central Seoul, a traditional strike. Thousands of riot police mobilised place of sanctuary for strike leaders. in Seoul, and the stock market sank as the

The Prosecutor-General's office issued a

Korean Confederation of Trade Unions

After the collapse of its currency at the end of last year, South Korea was saved by

After the collapse of its currency at the end of last year, South Korea was saved by (KCTU) announced a strike among emend of last year, South Korea was saved by
the International Monetary Fund with a
KCTU, which predicts that 100,000 work-

money is to be provided on condition that the government pushes through drastic reforms of the country's closed and regulated economic system, including legislation promoting "flexibility" - the right of companies to lay off workers more easily.

tories, including the huge Hyundai and Dacwoo car plants.

After similar legislation was forced through parliament, Seoul was hit by a series of violent demonstrations and strikes which forced the government of President Kim Young Sam to step down just over a year ago. Today, the situation is very different, with a new president, Kim Dae Jung,

ployees of some of the biggest companies. record bail-out plan worth some \$58bn. The ers will join the strike in 67 offices and fac-soon to be inaugurated, and a growing acto see South Korea through its crisis.

At present redundancies can only be forced through with the agreement of a union or with permission from a court. Last week's agreement, which was to have passed into law in next month's National Assembly, was to have removed this protection, in return for greater union freedom.

But on Monday the union leaders who negotiated the deal were overruled and sacked by their members, who complained that workers were being asked to bear a disproportionate sacrifice compared to the big conglomerates, or chaebol.

"This is not a fair agreement at all," said a KCTU statement. "While demanding only superficial reform of the conglomerates, it imposes all the pain on the workers."

Diana's song raises \$400,000

By Tim Cornwell ກ Los Angeles

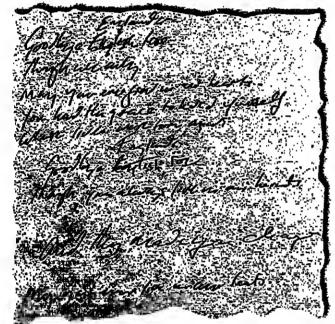
THE original lyrics to "Candle in the Wind 1997", the highestselling single in history, were sold for \$400,000 at a charity auction in Los Angeles to a foundation created by Walt Disney's daughter. The song, which opened with the phrase "Goodbye English Rose", was sung by Elton John at the funeral of Princess Diana, watched by an estimated two billion people.

The British lyricist Bernie Taupin, who rewrote the words of John's classic 1973 tribute to Marilyn Monroe, put the fourpage draft up for sale. "Candle in the Wind 1997" sold 35 mil-

lion copies world-wide in the for sale by Christie's Internatwo months after its release. In December John, a close friend of the Princess, handed over a first instalment of \$33m in royalties to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, set up to support her favourite charities.

Taupin's original manuscript at a single stroke brought in \$442,500 that will go to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. It was purchased by the Lund Foundation, a nonprofit group set up by Sharon Disney Lund to fund programmes for disadvantaged children.

The draft included three hand-written pages with occasional crossings out, and a final type-written version signed by Taupin and Elton. It was offered



An extract from one of Bernie Taupin's three pages of hand-written lyrics

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tional at Cicada, the Los Angeles restaurant owned by Taupin's wife Stephanie.

The auctioneer was Lord Hindlip, the Christie's chairman, who also presided last year over the charity sale of dresses from Diana's collection that fetched \$3.3m.

Bidding began at \$48,000. Taupin, who has often collaborated with John, said the hidding went "beyond our wildest dreams", adding: "I was not prepared to stay in the room while the thing was going on, but I got swept away by the whole thing. It was incredibly exciting and I've never really witnessed anything like that before."

Asked wby he gave it up for sale, he said: "It's better doing that with it than letting it gather dust in a drawer. Four hundred thousand dollars for a charity that is one of the finest in the country, you can't really argue with that.

It's an amozing, amozing charity, something that my wife and I have supported for a long time."

Sharon Lund's son Bradford, 27, was treated at Children's Hospital until he was six months old. His mother died in 1993. "They changed my life. It's a way to pay them back,"

Elton John sang the song in Westminster Abbey on September 6th, a week after Diana died in a Paris car accident with Dodi Al Fayed. He recorded it later, and has said he will nevlease it became an instant hit in Britain and the US.weeks

GROSS%



Song for life: Two visitors to the Christie's auction in Los Angeles examining the lyrics, on show yesterday. There were three handwritten sheets and a final, typed version

Photograph: Susan Sterner/AP

Nobel prizewinner quits group fighting to ban landmines

By Steve Crawshaw

JUST A few months ago, the champagne was flowing. Now, it has all turned to hitterness. Jody Williams, who in October won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work to ban landmines, has broken with the organisation which she led - and which shared the prize with her.

The split follows clashes of ego and of politics within the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Ms Williams, 47 -"the classic good kid", as she described herself -- has been the campaign's co-ordinator.

In an interview in this week's Burlington Free Press, her local newspaper in her native Vermont. Ms Williams said she needed a change, "I don't want to be the day-to-day administrator anymore," she said. "I just spent 12 days in Asia and came back to 12 hillion e-mails and 6 hillion letters. I am tired. And I am being asked to do more and more publicly."

That statement put a hrave face on an additional reason reported splits within the organisation. The Vietnam Vetcrans of America Foundation, which has played a key role in the campaign, paying Ms Williams's salary and funding much of the campaign's work, has serious differences with

her over the direction that things have gone.

Michael Leaveck, associate director of the Vietnam Veterans' group, said the campaign must readjust its primary goal - the global treaty banning landmines world-wide. "It's very, very important that the US be made part of the Ottawa treaty. [Williams] has not seen it as important as we do," he said. But Ms Williams argued: "The US is not exporting any more, it is not a threat to oth-

er countries." Campaigners elsewhere complain of her "authoritarian" style of leadership. There is also much hitterness that Ms Williams has decided to keep her share of the £600,000 prizemoney, which she says she wants to use to finance her future activity.

Diana, Princess of Wales played an important role in stirring up world awareness of the tragedies caused by landmines. But the International Campaign to Ban Landmines played a crucial role in forcing governments to change tack. When the campaign started its work six years ago, the battle seemed entirely hopeless.

The most important victories for the campaign - including the signing of the international treaty to han landmines - were followed almost immediately by the most bitter splits.

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	£500 - £2,499	3.60	4.50
	£50,000 plus	4.48 .	5.60
	£20,000 ptd3 £20,000 - £49,999	4.28	5.35
	£10,000 £19,999	3.96	4.95
No Notice	£5,000 - £9,999	3. 64	4.55
	£2,500 - £4,999	3.36	4.20
	£500 - £2,499	3.12	3.90
	£50,000 plus	5.36	6.70
3 Months Nooce	£20,000 £49,999	5.08	6.35
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Sierra Leone in anarchy

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone's capital, slid into anarchy as Nigerian-led troops battling the ruling junta closed in on the city centre. Residents said junta soldiers and former rebels allied to them ditched their uniforms as the army's command and control appeared to hreak down. Civilians were reportedly heheaded at road blocks mounted by pro-junta youths. There has been no official word for days from the Armed Forces Ruling Council led by Lieutenant-Colonel Johnny Paul Koroma, whose whereabouts remains unclear.

- Reuters, Freetown

Cuba pledge

CUBA said it would free 200 prisoners, including political detainees, following the Pope's visit last month. Foreign Ministry spokesman Alejandro Gonzalez said President Fidel Castro's government had decided to pardon "several dozen" people who were on a list handed to authorities by Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Sodano during the papal visit. - Reuters, Havan

Afghan aid

AS AID organisations planned to parachute 1,000 tons of aid into quake-devastated northeastern Afghanistan, supplies began arriving. Until now, aid to the region, battered by snowfall, fog and civil war, has heen barely a trickle, but yesterday a convoy with 20 tons of food rumbled into Rustaq from near by Badakhshan province.

UKGold.

War of words

AZERBALIAN and Armenia. at odds over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, traded accusations over border shootings. The Azeris said Armenian forces fired at an army post; the Armenians denied it and accused Azeri troops of opening



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SHANNELS



Edward and Mrs Simpson make Fort Belv





THE PRINCE OF WALES'S **SOUVENIR: 1934-36**



Photographs from the Fort Belvedere album, taken principally by the Prince of Wales and his future wife Wallis Simpson, show (anti-clockwise from right) Wallis Simpson preparing to go out for a walk, the Prince relaxing by the swimming pool, Mrs Simpson with her then husband Ernest Simpson, and Edward and Wallis with friends in the drawing-room



The day Wallis and her husband met the prince and his mistress During the 1920s he had a succession of mistresses, from Mrs glanced sideways at Wallis to see Duty versus romance, diligence versus wildness. Paul Vallely examines the

IN HIS farewell broadcast to constantly oo his lips. His eodthe oation, Edward VIII, King of the Uoited Kiogdom of Great Britain and Ircland and of the British duminions and Emperor of India, made reference to the brother who would succeed him as his abdication took effect. He called him "the Dook of York". Eveo hefore he married a citizeo of the United States, the divorcée Wallis Simpson, Edward had acquired a number of American habits.

The process began soon after the First World War, wheo Edward set out on a foreign tour at the behest of the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, who perceived that "the appearance of the popular Prince of Wales in far corners of the Empire might do more than half a dozen solemn imperial conferences". After Canada he moved to New York, and a ticker-tape welcome. On his return to Londoo he was full of the place and

less whistling of this "damned tune" caused considerable irritation to his irascible father. Fashionable in this, as in all

things, the prince was one of the harbingers of the Americanisation of Europe. More significantly it was a sign that he was becoming his own man. It was not before time. He was 36 before he moved from St James's Palace and the immediate orbit of his censorious parents, who had recently instructed him to give up steeplechasing, as they considered it too dangerous a pastime for the heir to the throne. It was at this point that he moved to Fort Belvedere, an 18th-century house belonging to

the Crown, oear Sunningdale. At the fort, as he always called it, he could live a life away from the disapproving eyes of the King and Queen. And how they would have disapproved had they known. For the fort bethe song "A Pretty Girl is like a came oot just a refuge from the

contradictions in Edward's character which led to his abdication in 1936 gan to entertain a private circle of friends not drawn from court circles or the conventional aristocracy. They were an alto-

gether more louche crowd nf moneyed socialites, former army officers and toff politicians who shared his taste for the "high society" pastimes of the age. The prince turned the fort's old-fashiooed parterre into a poolside terrace for lunches adorned by young things with bobbed hair and dark glasses in pencil skirts. Having given up

horse-jumping, away from parental scrutiny he took up the more perilous sport of flying. He frequently danced till dawn and had a taste for clubs; Sir Oswald Mosley, in his final interview before he died, told me of the enthusiasm with which the prince enticed him out to a seedy spot Melody", which he had heard official world he increasingly disat the Ziegfeld Follies, was liked. It was also where he he-

This was the generation ories and became something of line but living constantly with its whose friends had perished in such large numbers in the trenches. Many who survived lost fortunes in the Great Dcpressinn. Those who could, therefore, partied with a gaiety which bordered on desperaunn. It is hard to say whether the prince was happy. For Fort Belvedere brought out anoth-

opening pages of the second of his private albums, from which

Tomorrow: The King's favourite

er side to his character. Over the unlike in the carlier albums, the next six years he worked in its gardens and woods, clearing and burning acres of old rhododendrons to turn it from a wilderness into an organised landscape. He loathed laurel hedges and had a particular aversion to clipped yew and box; instead he applied Gertrude Jekyll's woodland planting the-

today's selection of photographs is taken, are full of sketches and plans of the house and gardens and "before and after" pictures, and snaps of the prince working with hatchet and hoe and his sleeves rolled up. But,

an authority oo roses. The

pictures have no captions. These two aspects of his private life, the compulsive partying and the diligent gardener. spoke to contrasting parts of his personality. His upbringing had veered between the oppressive propriety of his parents and the surreal experience of a war in

anarchic consequences. It had left him craving warmth, yet unsure of how to find it. His persooality was emotional and yet seemingly incapable of deep reflection and was unreliable to his judgements. His gift for communicating easily with people of all backgrounds, honed by his work during the First World War, gave him an indefinable charisma and yet he could also be inconsiderate, selfish and even callous, as if he was rather spoilt by the universal adulation to which he was exposed.

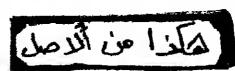
For all the social whirl, he seemed, as his brothers married one hy one, an increasingly solitary figure. "Wheo will Edward marry?" his parents woodered to one another. But the prince's taste was not so much for marriage as for married which he was never at the front women rather than marriage.

Freda Dudley Ward to Thelma Furness, a 25-year-old beauty known to him as "Toodles". Yet eveo in that there were proprieties. When he was a guest at weekend house parties with her he ensured there were others to chaperone them.

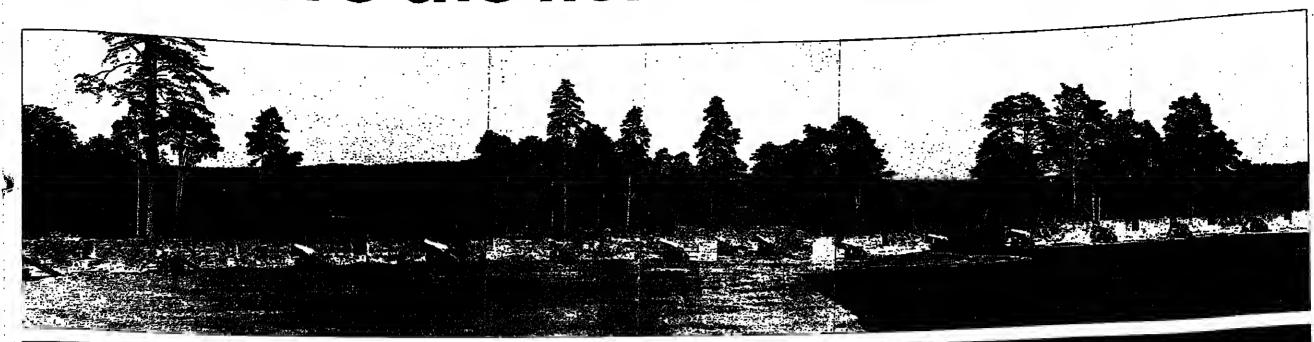
In 1931 Ernest Simpson, an American ship broker who had taken British citizenship, and his wife were invited, as last-minute guests, when someone else cried off, to such a a party at Burrough Court, the Leicestershire country home of Lady Furness. In later years Ernest Simpson recalled: "We all got hastily to our feet, the ladics a slight bow as Thelma introduced us in turn. I thought the Prince of Wales looked perfectly awful. I just couldo't take my eyes off his violent check tweed suit. He looked like that musichall comedian, Max Miller -

what she was making of it," he added. "Her curtsey was quite" a professional effort, and in no time at all she was rattling away to the prince like she'd known him all her life.".

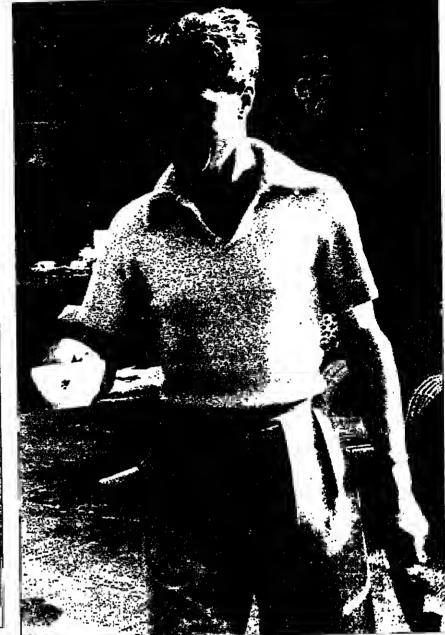
The next time they met Edward had receotly returned from a tour of depressed Yorkshire villages. The prince began to talk of what he had seen but the company was uncomfortable with the subject and the conversation swiftly returned to safe topics such as balls, hunting, and golf. Mrs Simpson alone turned to the prince and questioned him further. He spoke of his worries, of his limited work curtseying and the men giving tutional powers, of his wish to achieve something with his life. In response, she asked him of his responsibilities and of how he filled his days. No woman had ever talked to him like that before, the prince later said. She was the first woman to show any about the same height, too". real interest in his job. The die The jaundice of hindsight was was cast.



Belvedere the home of the Fast Set







Fort Belvedere (above and top) became in the 1930s the place where Edward (right and below) could create a carefree private life away from official duty



FORT BELVEDERE was built Michael Bloch on in the 1820s as a folly for royal tea parties: a battery of cannon was installed to be fired on royal hirthdays by a resident bombardier. Diana Cooper wrote: "It was a child's idea of a fort. The sentries, one felt, must be of tin." The last "salute" was fired in 1907, and in 1910 the fort, on the south side of Windsor Great Park in Berkshire, near Ascot, became the "grace-

and-favour residence" of a

courtier. When it became vacant

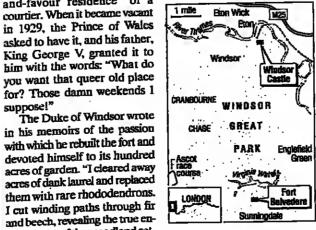
you want that queer old place for? Those damn weekends 1 suppose!" The Duke of Windsor wrote in his memoirs of the passion with which he rebuilt the fort and devoted himself to its hundred acres of garden. "I cleared away acres of dank laurel and replaced them with rare rhododendrons. I cut winding paths through fir and beech, revealing the true en-chantment of the woodland set-

ting ... I found a new contentment in working about the Fort with my own bands ... I pressed my weekend guests into arduous physical labour."

It was in these surroundings that he created a private life away from his official duties, and it was here that his friendship with Wallis Simpson (who visited for the first time with her husband in February 1932) developed.

When the Prince of Wales came to the throne in January 1936 as King Edward VIII, the fort assumed a special role as "the king's independent home" where he could escape from the tension and restrictions of court life. During the late autumn of made available for the evacuathat year, as the constitutional tion of government offices.

the folly the Prince of Wales made the centre of high society in the Thirties



crisis arising out of his desire to marry Wallis developed, he withdrew to it in an atmosphere of virtual siege, and it was there that he signed the Instrument

of Abdication on 10 December. Before giving up the throne and leaving the country, however, Edward obtained an informal promise from his brother and successor, George live at the fort when he returned to England. This promise was broken, as became clear during the Second World War when the Duke of Windsor learnt that, without his having been consulted. Fort Belvedere was to be

He wrote bitterly to his London solicitor that this was "only another example of my brother's failure to keep his word to me of December 1936, when ... it was clearly understood verbally (unfortunately not in writing) that the Fort would be reserved for me until such time as it was mutually considered suitable that I should take up residence in England again ...

After the war, the Windsors, who had decided to make their main bome in France, asked on several occasions whether they might be allowed to live at the fort for a few weeks a year during the spring and autumn. As the duchess wrote to a friend in 1947: "We would not be there long enough to upset the powers that be ... It is a waste of time being homeless on the face of the earth and most disturbing ... ' However, these requests were always refused by the British roval establishment. In 1955, it was announced that the fort (which had been empty since 1936) would cease to be a grace-andfavour residence and would be let on a 99-year lease.

The first commercial tenant was the Duke of Windsor's nephew Gerald Lascelles. He refurbished it in a way that left few traces of its former occupancy. However, in 1977, Lascelles' successor as tenant, a son of the Emir of Dubai, sublet the fort to a television company for the making of the drama series Ed-VI, that he would be allowed to ward & Mrs Simpson, and thus it was briefly restored by expert hands to something of its former state. Fort Belvedere's present tenant is Galen Weston, the owner of Fortnum and Mason. Michael Bloch is the editor of "The Intimate Correspondence of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor" (1986)





the Prince of Wales, with friends at Fort Belvedere: lunch on the terrace (above); at the swimming pool (left); and in a mystery quest on the lawn. Wallis was first invited to the fort with her husband in February 1932, and it was here that her affair with Edward developed

photographed by



Monica Edwards

Monica Newton, writer: born Belper, Derbyshire 8 November 1912; married 1933 Bill Edwards (died 1990; one son, one daughter); died 18 January 1998.

Monica Edwards was a prolific and popular writer, fully deserving the choice of Children's Author of the Year made by Foyle's Children's Book Club in 1960 (along with Captain W.E. Johns of Biggles fame). Described by the magazine Junior Bookshelf as "wholesome books, full of practical activity and a sensible interest in outdoor life", her fiction was always more than a cut above the facile effusions of Enid Blyton. Characters were better developed. plots less unlikely, and the supporting cast of local people respected rather than patronised.

By the time she stopped writing for children, the massive convulsions in the 1960s about what was expected of modern children's books in terms both of their subject matter and their intended audience were heginning to make her work look old-fashioned. But in her day the well-crafted stories she wrote proved just the thing for those children who either shared the same type of middleclass background and assumptions, or else wished that they and their families did.

Born in Belper, Derbyshire, in 1912, the daughter of a vicar, her childhood was spent at Rye harbour in Sussex. On holiday from boarding school, Monica passed the time with local fishermen, once climbing down a drainpipe to join in some night sailing - a detail repeated in The Summer of the Great Secret (1948).



Edwards: well-crafted stories with a sense of place

When she married Bill Edwards in 1933, she found the perfect consort: someone who shared her love of the countryside and a strong sense of fun (the couple practised acrobatics for some time, selling postcards of their most spectacular balancing acts). A son and a daughter followed, and eventually a first book, Wish for a Pony (1947).

This was written for ber daughter, who was transformed into one of the two heroines Tamzin and Rissa, the other based on her best friend. The huge success of this book later irritated its author, unwilling to have berself written off as just another back producing pony stories. But it provided her with a set of characters situated in the Romney Marsh that was to last through another 14

topics such as smuggling, floods and storms at sea. The Romney Marsh was already celebrated among adults as a setting for Russell Thorndyke's racy Dr Syn stories: Edwards made it doubly celebrated for younger readers.

In 1947 she bid at an auction for a derelict farm in Surrey. Very much to ber surprise this was successful and she and her busband became first-time farmers, learning as they went. She was always very concerned with a sense of place (many of her adventures can be followed on an Ordnance Survey map). and Punchbowl Farm, Thursley, hecame the setting for a parallel series of 11 more adventures.

The child characters of the farm help out with daily chores such as rounding up the sheep, stumbling across occasional titles, reaching out into other buried treasure or episodes of

time travel to liven things up. Like Arthur Ransome, she primarily wrote about holidays. a time for gulping down breakfast, brushing moss and leaves off jodhpurs before going on to buckle the pony's throat lash, chatting to friends or planning picnics. Interjections rarely got fiercer than "Great Snakes!". and when the thoroughly competent young heroines were untypically at a loss they admitted to "not having the foggiest".

She was never a great writer but always a hard-working and bonest one, much preferring gritty details of farming life to an unreal world of cops and robbers where child characters always know best. In her last children's book, A Wind is Blowing (1969), adolescence itself becomes the topic, with Tamzin realising that her feelings for Meryon Fairbrass go beyond the chumminess experienced in earlier stories.

With the author's own famity grown up, this was a natural time to stop writing about her fictional children, themselves now at the threshold of adulthood. Instead, she produced five more autobingraphical books about Punchbowl Farm, describing animal life based on ber own field notes and nocturnal photographs. She also wrote about her husband's serious tractor accident and the decision eventually to sell the farm. The couple stayed on in a small house built in the valley they both loved. Bill died in 1990. and with his wife's death the land is to be donated to the Woodland Trust - a characteristically generous gift from an author whose unaffected love of the countryside shone through everything she wrote. - Nicholas Tucker



Whittam for Edwards's Storm Ahead (1953, Puffin Story Books 1957)

Maurice Schumann

Maurice Schumann was a young second lieutenant, a former journalist, when General de Gaulle appointed him to be the regular Free French spokesman on the BBC, writes Leonard Miall [further to the obituary by Professor Maurice Larkin, 12 February]. He had not had previous broadcasting experience and tended to speak in a high squeaky voice. Once when he telephoned my secretary replied, "Oui. Mademoiselle Schumann."

We were too cowardly to tell him his high voice sounded silly. Instead we said that we believed that his words would go. better through the German. jamming if he pitched them as low as possible. Schumann duly practised and soon became an excellent hroadcaster.

In one of de Gaulle's first broadcasts he had appealed to French submarine captains to hring their ships to Britain to continue the struggle, In course of time they began to arrive. Maurice Schumann brought the first to Broadcasting House to speak to France. He was a huge man with a big black beard and a very deep voice. With horror we heard Schumann tell him to pitch his voice as low as possible in order to go through the jamming. We had to take him aside to assure him that his normal voice would

Chris Philip

As the former owner of Lakeside, the property bought in 1983 by Chris Philip and Denys Guéroult, I would like to correct the impression given by Michael Leapman fobituary of Chris Philip, 11 February], that the "previous owner was a daffodil collector who had dug up all his bulbs, leaving the garden a barren waste", writes Michael Jefferson-Brown.

I was at the time a commercial daffodil hreeder and grew all my stock a mile or two away from the garden. Not a single bulb or plant was dug up out of the garden before or al the time of the sale. We were delighted to hand over the garden to Chris and Denys, who were both obviously going to enjoy

and develop it. To suggest that we left it "a barren waste" is the opposite of the truth; once or twice Denys, and Chris contacted us after they moved into Lakeside to say they were contemplating certain plantings and works in the garden and hoped my wife and I would not mind - a human and pleasing touch from two people who from our first meeting be-- Steve Voce came our very good friends.

Attila Zoller



guitarist, born Visegrad, Hungary 13 June 1927; married; died Townshend, Vermont 25 January 1998.

"I could only stay three weeks on my first visit to the United States in 1956," said the guitarist

my views of jazz completely. I found out the point of the music on that trip when I heard Clifford Brown on trumpet."

Zoller was born in Hungary sic teacher and he started me on violin when I was four," he later recalled. "When I was nine I started to like the trumpet better than the violin so I practised in secret on a borrowed horn. When he found out, my father didn't mind, and so I played trumpet for seven years in my high school's symphony orchestra."

At the end of the Second World War, the 17-year-old went to Budapest to find work as a musician. "It was hard to find work as a trumpeter, so I switched to guitar and taught myself the chords from piano music." In 1947, still unaware of

Attila Zoller. But it changed jazz, he joined one of the top commercial hands in the capital and it was then that he first heard Charlie Parker and Dizzy cal devices in the United States. Gillespie on the radio.

"Like most things, records e very hard to get in Hungary then. So, in 1948, just hefore they closed the border with Austria. I walked across the mountains with nothing hut my guitar and some changes of underwear stuffed in the case."

In Vienna he met Vera Auer, who at that time played jazz on the accordion. "We formed a quartet together - and then we heard records of the George Shearing Quintet which included a vibraphone." It was impossible to huy such an instrument, so Zoller decided to manufacture one himself. "I moulded the keys myself in a foundry. The tuning was terri-

blel" This feat of engineering was typical of Zoller's ingenuity; he later patented several musi-

Zoller and Auer worked tofirst prize at a jazz contest in Vienna in 1951. They played for US Army clubs in Turkey and then in 1954 Zoller went alone to Holland, and saw his first American jazz musicians - the Jazz at the Philharmonic unit and Lionel Hampton's band.

He settled in Frankfurt, where he met the pianist Jutta Hipp and the trombonist Albert Mangelsdorff. For two years he worked with Jutta Hipp and they joined the band of the tenor player Hans Koller. He met the American alto saxophonist Lee Konitz in 1955 when the two shared a concert hill in Cologne, and Konitz re-

mained a friend for many years. by Jaspar; they returned to vo in 1966 and for Benny Good-When he returned to Hun- work in Germany and Belgium man in 1967. In 1968 he became gary from a second trip to the for a few months. In 1962, Zoller co-leader of a trio, "Zo-Ko-Ma",

bass) and Kenny Clarke (on drums). However, Zoller and Pettiford were injured in a car crash: the group broke up and the guitarist went back to America, to stay, in March 1959.

On arrival, thanks to the pianist John Lewis and the guitarist Jim Hall, he was awarded a scholarship to the Lenox School of Jazz in Massachusetts. He joined Chico Hamilton's esoteric quinter, leaving when he got married, because he wanted to stay in New York rather than tour, and formed the International Jazz Quartet with the Belgian tenor player Bob-

Americans Oscar Pettiford (on Jaspar became ill and Zosler she toured Japan in 1970. returned to New York and

> joined a group led by the flautist Herbie Mann. "I was pretty much restricted to certain things" was his way of saying that Mann didn't let him play much jazz, but he stayed until 1965. He formed an alliance with the hand's pianist. Don Friedman, and they worked as a duo both in the United States and on a trip to Germany between Mann's bookings. The European trips became annual and Zoller worked on European relevision and radio, on recordings and at concerts. He

also played briefly for Red Nor-

US in October 1958, Zoller won an award for the sound-made up of himself, Lee Konitz formed his most famous trio, track music of the German film and Albert Mangelsdorff. They gether for five years, winning which included the expatriate The Bread of Our Early Years. backed Astrud Gilberto when Settling in Vermont in 1972,

Zoller started the Vermont Jazz Centre. He made some remarkable duet recordings in Frankfurt with the guitarist Jimmy Rancy in 1979 and 1980. Despite ill-health, Zoller continued to play and record until last month. He was particularly moved

by a special celebration put together by 45 of his jazz peers at the American Guitar Museum in New Hyde Park, New York, to commemorate his long service to jazz. The fourteenth of April is now officially Attila Zoller Day in New Hyde Park.

Photograph: Phil O'Connor

Peter Longbottom

Peter Longbottom, cyclist: born Huddersfield 13 May 1959; married Lyn Snowdon; died York 10 February 1998.

Peter Longbottom was the heart and soul of his sport. A Commonwealth and Olympic racer whose life was cycling, he died on Tuesday at 38, riding his bike.

Longhostom, a valued and respected teammate to many, notably Chris Boardman, gave unstintingly throughout his ca-

reer which as an international lasted 17 years until the 1994 Commonwealth Games in British Columbia, where be won a silver medal in the 100km team time trial

His first Commonwealth medal was a 1990 bronze in the same discipline riding with Boardman, whose career was to take him on to world and Olympic titles, and fame in the Tour de France.

Peter Longbottom was often the unsung worker behind the triumph of others, and that was a role he happily accepted, internationally and at home. Yet ambition was never far away when he raced. If he could not win, then he made sure that it

was one of his team.

He was a "must" selection for the international Milk Race for 10 years. Not as a sure-fire success, but as the tactical brain who could organise his men on the road, and lift them with a joke when the day went bad.

Only one thing matched his

appetite for the sport. "He was had a lot of success and still held in these cash-grabbing days. an astonishing eater, but built like a rake," said Jim Hendry, Britain's national team director in the late 1970s, and now chief executive of the British Cycling Federation.

"At one training camp everyone had had double portions. That was enough for them, but Peter finished off a lemon meringue pie intended for six. It all went to fuel his tremendous work-rate for his team. "He was one of a few who

a road racer. He tried it all." The man from Malton twice failed to make the final Olympic selection. When he was picked for the Barcelona Games at 33 he was one of the oldest cyclists to represent his country.

down a full-time job. As a rider

you could not buy his experience

and knowledge. He was not just

Longbottom retired from racing two years ago, ending a career that was as close to true amateur as anyone could find

Even in repose he was restlessly inspiring others in their

After several years as a survey-

or with Ryedale District Coun-

eil, he had become a director of

a building company in York.

racing. "He did not walk away from the sport, but began working with younger riders," said Peter Woodworth, whose club, North Wirral Velo, recruited Longbottom. "That was really impressive," he said.

- Robin Nicholl Longbottom in 1995

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

ROBERTS: On 28 December 1997, to lestyn Roberts and Janet Bonthron, a son, Huw Emmanuel, a brother for Mair, Jesse and Owain. THELLUSSON: On 10 February, to Jenny (nee Owers) and James, a daughter, Abigail.

KLEINSCHMIDT: Mary (nee Barker), formerly of Grahamstown, died in Cape Rown on 2 February, Much-loved nother of Anton, Gerda and Mark.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HARRIS: A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of David Harris, former chairman and chief executive of Nestlé UK Ltd, will be held at Croy-don Parish Church on Thursday 12 March at 3pm.

MORGAN: A Memorial Service for Dyfrig Gruffydd Morgan, Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge 1909 97, and University Lecturer in Agri-cultural Botany 1959-90, will be held in St John's College Chapel on Sal-urday 28 February 1998 at 12 noon.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Mr Michael Attenborough, Principal Associate Director. Royal Shake-speare Company, 48; Mr David Banks. Consultant Editor. Sunday Mirror, 50: Mr Liam Brady, football manager, 42; Professor Derek Burke, former Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia, 68; Dr John Clayton, former Apothecary to HM House-hold, Windsor, 77; Miss Margaret Collins, former Matron-in-Chief, QARNNS, 71: Mr Brian Deacon, actor, 49: Miss Eileen Farrell, soorano, 78; Professor Janet Finch, Vice-Chancellor, Keele University, 52; Baroness Flather, councillor and local government worker, 64: Mr Pe-ter Gabriel, rock musician, 48; Mr Arpad Goncz, President of Hungary. 76; Mr John Healey MP, 38; Lord Lewis of Newtham, Warden, Robinson College, Cambridge, 70: Mr John McAlian MP, 50; Miss Kim Novak, actress, to: Mr Leonard Pascoe. cricketer, 48; Lord Peyton of Yeavil, former government minister. 79; Lord Pym, former government min-ister. 76: Mr Oliver Reed, actor. 60; Miss Margaretta Scott, actress, 86; Mr George Segal, actor, 64; Dr Donald

College, Oxford, 68.

Anniversaries Births: Eleanor Farjuon, writer. 1881; Georges Simenon, novelist, 1901. Deaths: Dame Christabel

Sykes. Former Principal, Mansfield

On this day: William and Mary as cended the throne, 1689; Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of St Catherine dei Ric-ct, St Ermenilda or Ermengild. St Licinius or Lesin, St Martinian the Hermit, St Modomnoc, St Polyencies of Mclinene and St Stephen of Rieti.

1958; Jean Renoir, film-maker, 1979

Luncheons The Queen The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh held a lunch party yesterday at Buckingham Palace. The guests were: Professor Teresa Reas [Equal Opportunities Commissioner for Wales]: Mass Emmes Thompson Lactress; Lord Bingham of Control (Lord Chief Justice of England): Sir Ned Cossons (Director, Science Museum): Air Chief Marshal Sir David Cousins (Air Member for Personnel and Air Officer Comminding in Chief; The Right Rev Richard Lewellin (Biolog) of Dewert; Mr Charles Moure [Editor, Dails Telegraph): Mr David Wales Fire Officer, South Wales Fire Strick).

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by

telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.57pm. United Synapopues 0381-343 8969, Federation of Synapopues 0381-202 2283. Units of Libertal and Progressic Synapopues 0771-580 [45]. Reform Synapopues of Great British: 0881-349 4771, Spanish and Great British: 0881-349 4771, Spanish: 0881-3 Portuguese Jews Congregat 2573. New London Synapose

Lack of diligence by solicitors is unacceptable

LAW REPORT: 13 FEBRUARY 1998

Solicitors must understand ed a firm of solicitors, who were cation was refused by the disthat inordinate delay and a extremely experienced in the lack of diligence in the

conduct of actions was totally unacceptable, and that orders of the court must be obeyed. Lownes v Babcock Power Lid: Court

of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Polls and Lord Justice Potter) II February 1998

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the plaintiff, Robert Lownes, against the refusal of a 14-day extension of time in which to serve a schedule of damages in his action claiming damages for person-

al injury against his employers. The plaintiff's claim arose out of an accident at work

His trade union had instruct-

field, to act for him. The writ was issued in 1990. In December 1993 a different partner in the firm took over the conduct of the case. In August 1996, after a complete failure on the part of the plaintiff's solicitors to serve a schedule of damages on the defendants' solicitors, they applied for the claim to be dismissed forwant of prosecution.

An "unicss" order was made by consent, giving the plaintiff's solicitor 28 days to lodge and serve a schedule of damages, in default of which the action would be dismissed with costs. The schedule was not prepared in time, and the plaintiff's solicitor applied for which had left him a paraplegic. a 14-day extension of time in

which to lodge it. The appli-

trict judge, and an appeal to the High Court judge was dismissed. The plaintiff appealed. Benet Hymer QC (Thompson's, Sheffield) for the plaintiff: Anthony Goldstoub QC (Whitfield Hallam Goodall, Dewstury) for the defendants.

Lord Woolf MR said that the case had been properly conducted until the new partner had taken over in December 1993. After that there had heen wholly unjustified and inexcusable delay.

ff an "unless" order were not treated as a last opportunity to out a party's house in order, the court had no way of ensuring that its orders would be obeyed, and delays such as those in the present case would continue to occur. To allow the the present case independent

appeal would mean that parties could ignore orders with impunity. Although the consequences

of dismissing the appeal would be serious for the plaintiff, he would still get his proper compensation. In practice, the damages would be met by the plaintiff's solicitors' insurers rather than by the defendant's

It was the duty of the solicitors, as officers of the court, to do all in their power to see that the plaintiff personally suffered no more than was necessary as a result of their default. In such a situation the minimum that they should do was to ensure that the plaintiff received independent advice at the earliest opportunity. In

leading counsel had been instructed to advise the plaintiff. but it would have been preferable for him to have been instructed by independent solicitors.

Delays in cases such as the present had an effect nol only on the plaintiff, but also on the costs incurred by both sides, and, where insurers were involved, the cost of premiums. The administration of justice was also affected, since the amount of court time taken up resulted in other cases being put back, and the reputation of civil justice was damaged. The message to the profession which should be heard and learnt was that the standard of diligence displayed in the instant case was totally unacceptable.

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

The new ties that bind

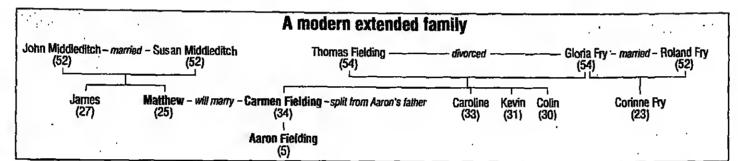
The age of separation and changing partnerships brings children into new families, often surprisingly successfully. By. Jack O'Sullivan











The instant family: Carmen Fielding, right, front, is to wed Matthew Middleditch, centre, providing a new father for her son, Aaron, shown with him, and 'grandparents' John' and Susan Middleditch. Carmen is with her mother, step-father and Aaron

UNTIL the past few months, five-year-old Auron had no dad. He was also short of a set of grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins. And he knew it. "Right from a very early age he felt he was missing out on something," says his mother, Carmen Fielding, whose former partner abandoned her when she became pregnant. "At nursery and school be would see other children with both parents. He felt left out

down, but he is also gaining from an equally modern phenomenon - the creation of Mended families where there is no blood Te between immediate relatives.

Aaron suddenly finds himself with a father and many other close relations. The reason? His mother is getting married.

Carmen's marriage to Matthew Middleditch will not take place until the summer, but Aaron is not waiting for the formalities. "He already thinks of Matthew as his dad." says his mother. "He calls him dad. He is the only dad he has ever known. He misses him and gets very upset when he is away. When Matthew first went away, Aaron believed that he wasn't coming back. But he has grown to trust him. He boasts about his dad at school. Often when Matthew is here, he is the one who meets him from school, cooks his dinner, Reads him a story and goes into school to help out in his class."

Matthew's life has also heen transformed. "Initially, it was very strange, sud-

natural. It makes me feel really good."

There were difficulties. "Carmen and I probably had more pressure than usual when we were starting our relationship," Matthew acknowledges. "I had to be sure that I could love Aaron as well. He would have been very hurt if he felt he was get-Not any more. Aaron may have lost out and that chap in mummy's life suddenly because his mother's relationship broke went away. But Aaron is a lovely lad and you can't help loving him.

"People ask us about where Aaron will stay when we go on our honeymoon. It has never crossed my mind or Carmen's that he wouldn't come with us. He is becoming my son and I am becoming his father. So of course he will come along."

Matthew was not the only person to find himself taking on more than usual when he popped the question. His own parents realised that they too would need to be imaginative. John Middleditch, Matthew's father, recalls meeting the couple. "My wife. Susan, and Matthew's godmother were there. The comment of one lady to the other was: 'It looks like you are going to be instant grandparents.' They had seen the chemistry. put two and two together and got five."

At first the Middleditchs were apprehensive. Matthew is 25, Carmen 34. He was educated at public school and had followed his father's footsteps in joining the forces. His comfortable upbringing in the Home

secretary's salary to raise Aaron.

"Until they declared their intention to get married." John Middleditch says, "I would honestly have counselled Matthew to think, think and think again." Meanwhile, Carmen was also worried.

"I absolutely dreaded the prospect of hate me the minute they saw me. I tried to put myself in their shoes and imagine the picture they might have of me. Although I have to say, if they had any preconceived cause they went out of their way to make me feel welcome.

"I remember when I went down for the weekend the first time, the atmosphere was a little tense, but I decided to be myself. Matthew's father said to me: 'You're a had influence on my son.' I thought 'oh dear'. He said: 'You're a bad influence hecause he is smoking.' So I said: 'Hang on. It's the other way around. Until I met him I hadn't smoked for a year. Now I'm smoking 20 a day thanks to your son.' From then on, the weekend was really good."

John Middleditch's biggest surprise was not, in fact, meeting Carmen. "I remember a little voice cried out and said: 'Mummy'. I looked down, saw this chirpy little face and realised there was more to all this than met the eye."

Yet, despite these initial reservations,

denly becoming a dad. But now it's lovely.

With Carmen's life as a single mother, liv
Call us exactly what any natural offspring as we pleased. Then my mum got remar
ing in north-east London and relying on a would call his grandparents - grandma and ried to Roland and they subsequently bad grandpa," John Middleditch proudly declares. Aaron will be christened on the wedding day in the same village church as Matthew was himself christened and the

Middleditchs were married. But some adjustment is still needed. "I was a little poleaxed by the news," says Mr and respect him for what he tiid. If it wasn't come a grandfather, you have time to prepare. There is the arrival of the baby two years before it starts shouting out your name. I was dealt a fait accompli. He is a ideas about me, they didn't show them, be-hright little five-year-old, sparky and innocent, keen to please and converse. But at first we didn't know the toys he likes. It takes a while for two old fogcys like us to get on his wavelength. It's a challenge for him and for us."

"Aaron is perfectly at home with them." Carmen says. "They always make a fuss of him. At Christmas, they bought him a kit for making a gingerbread house. John, Sue and Aaron spent hours making the house together. It was great." For Carmen, this modern way of creating a family has brought her a husband, a father for her son and inlaws with whom she is still feeling her way. But it is not all so new for her. She also had the experience of acquiring a new father.

"My mother split up from my natural father when I was eight," she says, "and we didn't see him again. So there were four of us. I was the eldest and the others were Counties does not immediately sit easily everyone is getting on well now. "Aaron will seven, six and five. We were wild. We did

another child together. Corinne is technically my half-sister though I have never thought of her in that way.

"Roland began bringing in rules and laying down the law. At the time I resented bim, but now I am a parent I really admire out as well as I have. I think of him as my dad. He is my dad. He has devoted the best years of his life to bringing us up. "

So what makes these modern-day extended families work? The first condition is obvious – the will to make them work Perhaps most important is the presence of men who like children and are prepared to become parents to them even when there is no blood link - be it as fathers or grandfathers. Matthew, John and Roland all break with the traditional stereotype of stepfathers as problematic, indeed potentially dangerous to children. Without them, Aaron would have neither a father nor a single grandfather, since he is out of contact with all his male blood relatives.

Roland will be there to finish the joh when Carmen marries in the summer. "Over the years, he has worried over me and cried over me. I know that," she says. "Now, he is very proud of me . He wants to give me away and help pay for the wedding." John and Matthew will each take up their roles. Aaron will be christened. It will be a fresh start.

Doc Martens are flying the flag for England

By Melanie Rickey

THEY'VE been adopted by women, lauded by pop stars and even ordered in bulk by the Pope. It's years since Doctor Martens were thought of as footwear fit only for a bovver boy, but now all the old connotations of violence and football fan aggression could well be revived.

Dr Martens is selling a version of its classic eight-hole boot customised with flags to trade on the patriotism created by the World Cup. Come June and the start of the tournament, will we see row upon row of xenophobic feet stomping out a patriotic chant? Might there not be a moment when they stop stomping and start stamping on the heads of the rival fans?

Gary Nelson of the Professional Footballers' Association thinks if that happens in France this summer, it won't be the fault of the boots. "If it [violence] is going to happen it will happen, it's nothing to do with what boots a per-son is wearing," he says. "It's the person inside the boots."

This is not the first time that Doctor Martens has marketed patriotic boots. It says it is merely responding to a demand for boots which feature flags, "We have sold customised Union Jack boots for a long time, at least three or four years, and are enjoying success with boots featuring the European Union and US flags too," said a company representative. Denmark and Norway (among the first to qualify for the World Cup) have already bought and sold thousands of beflagged boots, and Jamaica, which has just qualified. should be next.

The flag might be the thing which convinces a fan to huy, but any Doc devotee will tell you that no boot could be better for all those hours hanging around a football stadium. First favoured by huilders for their comfortable heat-sealed air cushioned soles, Dr Martens became a fashion phenomenon in the Seventies when skinheads appropriated the 1460 ankle boot (still the biggest seller) as uniform. Today, the factories, based in the Midlands, make 220,000 pairs of shoes and boots a day, meeting demand for a market that was worth £57m in 1991, and a whopping £250m in 1997.

The company is closely involved with fashion sponsorship: the St Martin's MA graduation which rounds off London Fashion Week will henefit from its patronage, as will the designer Sonja Nuttall, who is using the classic six-cyclet Derby boot for her forthcoming show because of their timeless, androgynous, appeal. Last season the company sponsored fashion newcomer Andrew Groves. Add to that the Dr Martens football league, a grass-roots semi professional organisation based in the Midlands, and you have a brand that means something to everyone.



Booting the colour: the new look

Each new departure is a matter that naturally interests us



JOHN LYTTLE

unworthy medium of newspapers? The late Ruth Picardie did in The Observer and struck a major chord. The seriously ill John Diamond does in The Times and provides a comprehension others would do well to emulate. It's all there: rage, rejection, sobbing, laughing. self-pity, sentimentality, courage and chemotherapy. What any sentient being would expect. This old news that is somehow forever new. All that's fit to print. if I pretended that one of the The older you grow, the more you ... appreciate death. I wouldn't say understand, because ... It's obvious, isn't it. Ruth Picardie and John Diamond handled/handle the quicksilver of their lives, and it's both a valid and senseless exercise. Simply pout, what they - what we - try to sort out is if death is the Big Question or the nial. For though Decea de-Big Answer. Who's sure? Who

could be? Decca Aitkenhead. In this month's Modern Review she acputting on an act, exploiting their own suffering. Decca looks

CAN journalists write about sion such cheap crowd-pleasing death - their own deaths - in the - including Ruth's sister, Justine. A crowd pleasing industry is being created, apparently. A cheat of a "cancer" school: newsprint, it transpires, just can't deal with death. Decca says.

You can see why certain pundits say Decca is out to create a reputation and screw the hurt inflicted. And the pundits may have a point. Decca's an excolleague - as was Ruth - and I like her enormously. She's inthings I liked most wasn't a determination to be noticed. Still, let's grant Decca what

she denies others, while oh so rationally ascribing the basest of motives. Let's give her the benefit of the doubt. I'd much prefer to view "Before They Say Goodbye", with its evasions, omissions and muddle, as declares that writing about death in a newspaper is tawdry, voveuristic entertainment, the interesting thing is that she cuses Ruth and John of, I guess, painstakingly duplicates the crime. Why? Perhaps because death threatens that sense of in-La commise vulnerability those in their

They Say Goodbye" is Decca's wholly unconscious address to her mother, whom she lost young. Or perhaps it is a scam: if these souls are brave for detailing their demises, how much braver am I for having a go? Whatever, intoning Decca's "can't do this" is genuflecting to her sloppiest notion; that there exists a "correct" way to write about death, and Ruth and John failed/failed morally, ethically and, get this, aesthetically. And as human history proves, this is ... Crap. There is oo right way. No wrong way. Only your way.

So, denial. Nothing else fully explains - or excuses - Decca's inability to grasp what might appear clear to the rest of us. For instance, when Ruth joked about being "privileged to live through the era of John Frieda Restructing Serum" it's that edged towards the unbearable was softened by a sweetener." A sweetener, or peace. Disaster, famine, rape, may be just ... gallows hu- murder, war and the dimensions

twenties enjoy. (Oh, to have it miliar with, but often sees be- Does anyone seriously believe cracks are showing. Consider; an back.) Or perhaps "Before youd, to shadows behind. Yes, gallows humour protects. Duh. It also affords a fleeting glimpse. It has to be fleeting. We nag at death, yet no philosopher. no religion, no work of art has cracked it. So why does Decca imagine that Ruth and John should deliver an essential, if wisely undefined, "truth"? 1 quote: "If a dying young mother put into print her uncut soul, strangers flicking through through the Sunday colour supps would be horrified." Horrified? Astonished. In 800 words or less, explain death. No conferring. Please. There is neither time nor space nor consciousness enough. Still, we flail away.

Decca doesn't get this either. Decca announces that to write of death in a broadsheet is to provide "a sentimental illusion of the truth" (that word again), but why not a newspaper. Even if the pages furnish "emotion-'sugared tragedy' ... any line al pornography ... a pleasurable little weep" for some, what of it? Others derive comfort and

newspapers should ban reporting on them? And surely Decca knows that once a piece is written how individuals respond to it is beyond the author's control for grabs? Wimess reaction to "Before They Say Goodbye".

This column frequently dashes itself against death, as regular readers are aware. Death from Aids, suicide, in the family, among friends. Decca We nag at death,

yet no philosopher, no religion, no work

of art has cracked it'

once said she was a regular reader tno, yet I find myself coopted into unkind equations, condemned for writing about Ruth and rushing to "claim bereavement status".

I honestly have no idea how to rebut that. All I can say is that I wrote about Ruth to hold on to her a while longer. Foolish, granted. I'll own up to this, also,

entire "school" of cancer is reviled, as it two columns - one column, now - constituted a movement of bathos and "bad taste". Well, death is in very bad taste indeed, and, besides, schools grow. This one shrinks. And there are worse forms of cancer journalism to fret over. While Decca is busy conjuring a corrupt marketplace she forgets The Modern Review and its hrand of arrested adolescence. where apostles jostle to out-do the faux "plain speaking" of Julie Burchill, carping at dullards exploring their mortality, but otherwise happy to force "unwarranted intimacy" by dishing the

dirt on her abortions. Go figure. Go figure, too, why deceased Guardian columnist Oscar Moore is exempted for telling us about HIV, and how this has nought to do with Decca working at The Guardian, but because Oscar was writing about "a new disease ... and cancer has no mystery." (Huh?) Actually, by the time Oscar wrote about Aids it was hardly "new". And Part of me is enraged by Decca's I'd wager that a quick vox pop

formed about. But Decca could be sorting out something deeper here. From start to finish, she conflates and confuses cancer and death while pretending division. Perhaps because cancer killed her mother. May be she must establish a distinction, even at the bewildering cost of Aids good/cancer had.

Come. The cause of death is (mainly) immaterial. What draws and repels us is the process; this common yet unique journey we all must take. Decca supposedly stares death down, but she's the one. not Ruth, not John, averting eyes - and heart and intellect.

A proposition. Death has many rituals but very few rules. Arhitrarily imposing some you've prepared earlier is cruel, not least to one's self. Or ... hell? Who knows? I don't. What can be said for certain is life's too short. Which is sort of Decca's point, too, so let's expect her to get it any day soon. And if I over-estimate, then I can at least look forward to when Decca finally reveals the mour? A coping mechanism of the Clinton penis also pro-sophistry, by the fact that she's would raise doubts as to which last learn, turn and confront my vide emotional porn for a few. been brought on too fast and the sickness passers-by are more in- own legion of demons.

We're shown up again. For once, Britain should follow the French



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The French government has just announced approval for a new high-speed rail link east of Paris, cutting journey times to Strasbourg by an hour and a half. That's France: a socialist government, dreams of glory and tons of Euro-sentiment (the train, said a minister would "optimise links between the axes of the Rhine and the Rhone"). Transport officials in this country don't talk that way. But that doesn't stop them getting out of their depth. This country, 100, has its share of grand projects which run over time and over cost the Jubilee Line in London being the most egregious current example. Yet we lack transport imagination, understanding transport infrastructure as a whole, planning and thinking strategically. Especially now that the plan for building a fast link to the Channel Tunnel has collapsed. It has to be revived, cherished and reconfigured.

Forget the nominal transport minister. Gavin Strang. The man on the mat is John Prescott, Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions. Commiserations. He is, by nature, a big spender who is marooned in a Cabinet where financial rectitude rules. He is a big-picture man, yet only in the minutest phraseology of intricate contracts is the dream of publio-private financial partnership ever likely to be realised. It is he who has to put together transport and sustainable development: who but John Prescott is to see that new rail termini at St Pancras, not to mention Stratford could serve to jump-start that "brownfield" building which is supposed to be the alternative to dumping concrete on the green bell.

Fate - the paucity of imagination and conceptual confusions of the Thatcher and Major government, to be precise - has stacked Mr Prescott's in-tray high. The clock is ticking down to formal revocation of London and Continental Railways' contract. Replacements are knocking at DETR's door, eager to state terms. But

they all involve substantial extra public money, either directly (Eurorail is asking for more than £2bn, most of it upfront) or indirectly (Railtrack would like to negotiate a cross-subsidy from higher track usage charges clsewhere). Meanwhile, the Government faces the prospect of re-acquiring formal ownership of Eurostar, the company running cross-Channel services; public ownership is also the option if rail-way franchisees fail to live up to their contractual obligations.

Behind all this lies a term unstated in

all the rhetoric about Private Finance Initiatives, contracting-out and privatisation. It's what happens when private capital fails. Theoretically, contracts can be re-let and new providers brought in. But what bappens in the meantime and what if the new contractors use the threat of a break in service to blackmail the state? That is John Prescott's position now.

The Government could, it is true, abandon the idea of a fast link to the Chan-

nel. With it probably goes the profitability of Eurostar, a boost to economic growth thanks to better through-routes from Birmingham, Manchester, Scotland and Ireland, let alone the specific benefits to London's East End of making Stratford once again a great transport node. But how much additional investment of public money is all that worth?

The answer, in principle, must surely be no less than the £2bn figure being bandied around - albeit payable over a period of years, which would not need to start till after that magic hour on 1 April 1999 when Labour's commitment to Tory spending plans comes to an end. But Mr Prescott and the Treasury ministers he eventually has to convince know there is a more important question than how much money. It is how to assure the state that private sector partners are reliable, at least more reliable than the members of the LCR consortium. Their ranks include two existing rail franchisees, National Express and

Virgin and if, after what has happened. their conduct of their railways is not brought under the closest inspection by ministers, they ought to be. Richard Branson may have emerged from the libel courts a people's hero; be may be Mr Blair's most acceptable capitalist face. But Mr Branson the blond controller needs policing.

Once, when Labour first came to power in this country, the talk was of the state taking over great chunks of private capital. During the Thatcher era, private capital could do no wrong - the best the state could do was retreat. We surely now know better. In large-scale infrastructure projects neither the state nor private capital is superior as financier or manager. But we have learnt the hard way that the state is indispensable, as projector, guarantor and backstop. Exactly how much the Government should spend on the fast link to the Channel is up for negotiation, but it can and should commit itself now to the principle of full-blooded participation.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-muil correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity,

LETTERS

THE IRA

CEASEFIRE

STILL HOLDS

Assault on Irag

Bombing Iraq will be immoral, impractical, and unjust. Immoral for killing people without justification. Impractical because we won't get all the sites. Unjust because the rationale stems from an unbalanced political view of the region.

This is the last throw of an in-effective UN/US/UK policy. Iraq can easily re-acquire chemical and biological, if not nuclear, weapons after an inspection.

The UK must think and speak for herself, however friendly we may be towards America. We should develop a new policy based on assistance and support for the people of Iraq and a proper military balance in the region.

We should realise that sanctions are confirming anti-Western attitudes in the minds of ordinary people in Iraq and in other Middle Eastern states, commence an aid initiative aimed at support and development for Iraq, rather like that undertaken by America and others for Germany after 1945, and take our improved status with the Arabs as an opportunity to help ease tension between the Arab world and Israel, to improve prospects for peace in the region. JOHN DEXTER Hythe, Hampshire

What guarantees can the Prime Minister offer that the following scenario will not occur?

After a bombing campaign by the US and its allies, Saddam grants the UN inspectors unfettered access to all the sites that they wish to examine. Then after several months he throws them out on some trumped-up charge, forcing the West once again to mount a military re-

Meanwhile it is powerless Iragi civilians that will have to suffer the maybem of these bombing campaigns in addition to the suffering already imposed upon them through economic sanctions.

HASSAN ABDULRAZZAK New Malden, Surrey

In the first half of this century, this nation had to make a second enormous sacrifice of blood and treasure to prevent an evil diclator from running amok, mainty because the international organisations created after the first holocaust, and the national powers concerned, lacked the courage and sense to take timey preventive measures.

I find it difficult to see any moral distinction between the arguments of some Anglican bishops (letter, 11 February) and

those of the "peace at any price" advocates who forced me to waste six of the best years of my life, and many of my contemporaries to give their lives or limbs, in the dirty work required to extirpate the plague of Nazism. LEWISSTRETCH Godmanchester,

Your front page leader (12 February) speculates that perhaps President Bush should have pursued the defeated Iraqi army to Baghdad seven years ago and overthrown Saddam Hussein.

Cambridgeshire

You may recall that no sooner had the Iraqi army been ejected from Kuwait than the chattering classes started wailing about America's "hidden agenda" and how overthrowing Saddam Hussein was not part of the UN's mandate, America and her allies were thus forced to withdraw with the job half done. SUSAN COELHO

What is it about the Labour Party that, when it achieves power, it rushes to support even foolish and murderous aspects of American foreign policy? Did Labour learn nothing from its disgraceful support of the Vietnam war? Is this meant to he socialism?

LAWRENCE HANSEN London SE 1

'Lost' Prince John

Your report "Revealed: the lost prince of the House of Windsor" (II February) is shocking not simply because Prince John was hidden away because he had epilepsy or because he died suddenly and unexpectedly in 1919 at the age of 13 and was buried very privately', but because eighty years on approximately 1,000 people die from epilepsy every year. This is the same as the combined annual mortality for cot deaths and Aids.

Most of these deaths are of young people, tike the Prince, true that until very recently these deaths were kept hidden. The death certificates in many

cases would not reveal the cause of death as epilepsy. Indeed, until very recently few people were prepared to talk about sudden death in epilepsy. Although you state that Prince John's seizures had increased in severity and frequency before he died, and indeed that Qucen Mary wrote that his death "came as a great release". Epilensy Bereaved knows of many young people who have prince". died whose condition has been considered sufficiently mild not

to warrant medication. Epilepsy affects 1.5 million people in the UK at some time in their lives, especially during Prince John's existence and apchildhood and old age. Yet the iltness attracts little by way of research money - 20p per sufferer each year, compared to £250 per person with muscular dystrophy and £140 for multiple sclerosis. Current epilepsy services are inadequate; 40 per cent of people with epilepsy are

is that with improved manage-

On the day before tomorrow, some tender thoughts from little Ginger far away

deaths of young people may be prevented JANE HANNA

Director, Epilepsy Bereaved PO Box 1777 Bournemouth, BH5 IYR

is fascinating, and very welcome. but Prince John is not a "lost Royal children in the early years of this century were not exposed to the kind of publicity their descendants face today;

but, far from being hidden,

pearance were made known to the public through photographs. I have 17 old picture postcards showing the Prince on his own, and a further 35 of him with a brother or sister, or in larger groups. These date from 1905, the year he was born. to 1916. Other photographs appeared in magazines, newspa-

Too often the story of Prince John is used as evidence that the ment of seizures these tragic Royal Family were unnaturally

cold and unfeeling to their children: your reporters are not the first to suggest that he was hidden away as an embarrassment. George V and Queen Mary gave him the best and most loving treatment any parents could have provided, by the stan-Your feature on the photo al-

dards of the day. Kept safe withhums of the Duke of Windsor in the protective circle of the family, John commuted from London to Windsor, to Batmoral and Sandringham, with his brothers and sister, and he did meet visitors and play with other children.

PRIESTLEY

February).

Business rates

Simon Sperryn is wrong to as-

sume his business rates were

high in 1989 because his local

authority levied them (letter, 1)

The amount a business pays

in rates depends on the its lo-

cation; if the ratcable value of

the land the business occupies

is high, its rates will be high. Re-

turning the business rate to

council control would not mean

that the burden is shifted from

residents to husinesses, or vice

versa; levels of domestic and

non-domestic rates would be

linked to ensure that one does

no input into the level of rates

they pay - returning the business

rate would improve democracy.

For local government to mod-

ernise, it must be able to rep-

resent all the community.

Financial autonomy is a vital

Local Government Association

part of that modernisation.

Sir JEREMY BEECHAM

At present, businesses have

not subsidise the other.

him at Buckingham Palace in 1911, and described a solid. cheeky little boy with no fear of his father, It was only in 1917 that John was moved to Wood Farm on doctors' advice, because his fits had become so frequent and so severe, and it was obvious that he did not have long to live. He was accompanied by the nurse who had looked after him from hirth, and his family kept in close touch

Theodore Roosevett met

and visited regularly. CHARLOTTE ZEEPVAT

Pyramid publishing Three cheers for Boyd Tonkin

("The real mystery of the Sphinx, why do falsehoods drive out truth?", 10 February). who goes straight to the heart of the matter of the huge increase in "alternative Egyptology" publications.

Most subjects have their shadowy sisters which feed on the lack of knowledge. These are toterated, humoured or ignored by the academic world: think of alternative medicine, the authorship of Shakespeare's plays, or alchemy. Their popularity may reflect the public's healthy distrust of being told:
"This is how it is, and there can be no argument about it." Publishers have rarely missed an opportunity to capitalise on it. But we should wake up to the real possibility that Egyptology as a serious subject gets confused in the public perception with theories which range from unorthodox to loony, and which at best ask questions without being able to provide satisfactory I have no problems explain-

ng why the Egyptians built their pyramids, but could somebody please tell me why we are going to bave the Millennium Dome? JAROMIR MALEK

Griffith Institute Ashmolean Museum Oxford

Boyd Tonkin castigates book publishers for encouraging New Age nonsense about ancient Egypt to flourish - and rightly so. But what about the mote in his own eve?

The American Egyptologist Mark Lehner knows a thing or two about the Sphinx and the pyramids, having spent 20 years studying them in the field. Yet when he publishes a popular book on the subject (The Complete Pyramids, Thames and Hudson, 1997), packed with new ideas and verifiable information, what do the broadsheet literary editors do? They ignore him.

COLIN RIDLER Archaeology Editor Thames and Hudson Ltd. London WC1

Testing athletes

If the world's sporting authorities are so determined to stamp out drug use ("Champ fails drug test", 12 February), can we assume that they will also regularly test for traces of alcohol and nicotine in athletes? LESLEY BROWNE London SWI

Teddington, Middlesex seen by general physicians who who "fell asleep" after a seizure pers and books. and never woke up. It is also have no training in neurology. The case for a national inquiry



KINGTON

My thanks to all those good and great who have taken space in the column this year to send their Valentine's Day messages. Not only does it bring me a tidy bit of income (and all tax-free!), it also saves me from having to write anything today. So here we go with our Grand St Valentine's Day Parade!

To Tonytumps - Bombs Awa y! You can come back to our little White House as often as you like! - his little Billikins.

LITTLE Tonykins - my very best wishes for doing everything I asked you to, and more! all my love, as long as you keep doing it! May the Sun keep provisionally shin-

ing on you ... Rupe Salman ... we will meet again ... I am looking for you the whole time ... I am on your trail ... my aim is true ... from you

Darling -Though I am only five foot two,

INVI. Deaths - Danie Curtistant 2573. New Lot

serious And look a trifle weird. Although I'm going hald on top And wear thick horny specs, It's lots of love from me to you, Your Ginger Foreign Sex ...

A reader writes: Dear Mr Kington, Don't tell me you're going to fill the whole column with these pathetic mock-political Valentines! Everyone does this, for licaven's sake! Can't vou do something else.

Miles Kington writes: Like what? A reader writes: Well, like turn your netention to some of the serious issues of the

Miles Kington writes: Like which? A reader writes: Like the impending war with Saddant Hussein. Can you tell us what's going to happen?

Miles Kington writes: Sure. They can't declare military action against Saddam Hus-

And wear a ginger heard. Although I'm very sein until they've decided on a name for the as well. So it's not Robin Cook they're wait-

A reader writes: A name? Miles Kington writes: That's right, A war fought by the Americans has to be packaged first - all the press rights sold, all the advertising sewn up, film rights auctioned off in Hollywood, all the hig dealers signed up. And the biggest problem is how to brand-name a war. Great War was a brilliant name for a war. So was World War, even though a lot of the world wasn't involved in any world war. Cold War was a brilliant name for a peace, too. The trouble is, they've been through all this before when they liberated Kuwait, and so this time all the good names like Gulf War and Desert Storm have already been used up. They can't call it Gulf War II or Son of Gulf War. because they know that sequels never do ing for - they can't start bombarding Iraq till they have got the name they need.

.4 reader writes: Hminm ... Talking of Robin Cook, Gaynor is a fromy kind of name, isn't it? Have you ever come across a woman called Gaynor?

Miles Kington writes: Yes. The film actress, Mitzi Gaynor.

A reader writes: Oh, right ...! Filmny kind of name, Mitzi. Ever come across another woman ...?

Miles Kington writes: Look, if you haven't got any intelligent questions, can I get back to my Valentine's Day messages

A reader writes: Yes, just one more question. What kind of a nume was Dodi? Was there any Englishman who ever had a name Miles Kington: Yes. Ken Dodd. A reader writes: Ken Dodd isn't much like

Miles Kington writes: No. but Dodd is known familiarly up North as Doddy, and in fact when Diana first started going out with Dodi, most of the North of England thought she was going out with Ken Dodd. Some still do, as a matter of fact, and that headling the other day, "I had Dodi's baby". caused a great fuss in parts of Lancashire. Any more questions?

A reader writes: No. You can get hack to your tired old Valentine Day parodies now. Miles Kington writes: Thanks ... Queen Mumski ... Cheers! Bottoms up! Let's drink to it ... Whoops! ... love from Boriskins ... RICHARD BRANSON I love you I love

you I tove you!! from Richard Branson ... Continued next year



DONALD MACINTYRE THE GENTLE ART OF COMPROMISE

Rupert Murdocb - eveo since the spectacular defection of the Sun to its cause - still haunts the collective psyche of much of the Labour Party. Three unresolved issues, currently exercising the government's best minds, all have features in common, of which Mr Murdoch's looming presence, real or perceived, is only one. The newspaper industry has a direct commercial interest in the outcome the outcome of each. The public is less interested in them than the newspapers would like them to be. And finally, Tony Blair has directly focussed his lawyer's mind on all of them.

The first concerns the trade unions and how to put into practice the manifesto promise to give statutory recognition rights to unions that have the support of "51 per cent of the relevant workforce". It's well known that the meaning of that innocuoussounding phrase is now a matter of direct dis-pute between the TUC, who argue that it means 51 per cent of those voting in any ballot, and the CBI, who insist that it means 51 percent of those eligible to vote. This sets a very high hurdle. There are modernisers within the Government who sympathise quite strongly with the CBI view, who worry about the risk to inward investment of too effective a measure on union recognition, who might not be too unhappy about a public break with the TUC and who believe, hluntly, that union organisation is the unions' busioess, not the government's. There are also those, including some quite prominent cabinet members, who believe that the CBI demand is unreasonable and that the White Paper this spring will have to find a compromise. It's likely for example, that David Blunkett, who played some part in the drafting of the manifesto wording, would prefer a minimum level of turnout in a recognition ballot - say 30 per cent. As it happens, Rupert Murdoch's desire - entirely matched by that of his rivals - not to see the old print unions return to the oewspaper industry hasn't been mentioned in the internal discussions so far a system of compensation for individuals who about the issue, And it is much less relevant than many in the party think. But there are Labour MPs who persist in believing it is uppermost in some ministers' minds. It will probably take weeks rather than days for the discussions to reach a cooclusion.

The second is the issue of privacy and the press. This is of obsessive interest to other newspaper groups beside Mr Murdoch's and arises because the Human Rights Bill which goes to the Commons oo Monday, incorporates, among the other articles of the European Convention of Human Rights, a right to privacy as well as a balancing right to free expression. Fearing that the Press Complaints Commission as a public authority could now be judged by the British courts not to be adequately protective of citizens against the intrusion of the press, the PCC's chairman is

now seeking its exemption from the terms of the Bill. In particular he wishes to guard against judgments which rule that that the PCC should have restrained newspapers in advance from publication. Last Monday at a meeting between the Prime Minister, Lord Irvine (the justly proud author of the Bill in its present form), Jack Straw and Chris Smith, it was agreed that Charles Falconer, the Solicitor General, should apply his forensic mind to examine ways of amending the Bill to accommodate some of the PCC's concerns. This will not abolish the right to privacy in the Bill, and it will not preclude the possibility of future privacy legislation. But it will still look to the Government's critics like tampering with the Bill in order to satisfy the owners of tabloid newspapers.

The last, of course, is predatory pricing. And here Mr Murdoch, and the cut-price Times, is indisputably the protagonist. This week's decision by the Lords to amend the Competition Bill to outlaw the use of below cost pricing to hurt competitors, including The Independent, was a considerable embarrassment to the Government. The standard reaction to a Lords defeat, namely that it demonstrates the need to reform the Upper House, was simply not available. It was Labour life peers who rebelled, and Liberal Democrats, as a matter of policy, who led the charge against the government, and presumably would have done whatever the composition of the House. It also frankly strains credulity to say, as one junior member of the Government unblinkingly told me this week, that the Labour rebellion consisted of luvvies and trendy middle-class intellectuals. It's true that two new Labour working peers, Lord (Richard) Rodgers and Lord Puttnam, just about fall into that category. But Lord (Jack) Ashley? or that redoubtable Brummie Lord (Dennis) Howell? Clever men, yes. Middle-class intellectuals? Hardly. Again there are strong feelings within the Labour Party in the Commons. The former Director General of the Office of Fair Trading Lord Borrie, Mirror Group Newspapers Director, and Labour peer is convinced that just as the Fair Trading Act contained special provisions for newspaper mergers because of the need for diversity, so should the Competition Bill provisions on predatory pricing. The Labour MP Chris Mullin is thinking of joining his colleague Giles Radice (both are highly influential MPs) in backing the Lords amendment with a similar one in the Commons, though he will probably oot finally dectde whether to do so until be has fully examined the Government's case.

There are possible compromises of varying effectiveness in all three cases. On privacy, if the Government does produce the exemption that the PCC -unnecessarily in the view of some lawyers - is seeking, it will surely (at long last) have to come up with bave been wronged by newspapers invading their privacy. On predatory pricing, the Government is quite likely to reword the Bill, though that does not oecessarily mean the full scale enquiry into the predatory pricing Mr Murdoch's critics most want. On unions the participation thresbold - though one probably significantly higher than 30 per ceot - offers a possible compromise. The eventual outcome will probably not dramatically or immediately affect the level of union recognition in industry. It will probahly not satisfy either the CBI or the TUC. But there is a good chance that it will also not lead to a full-scale confrontation with either. Some habits die hard. Like it or not, of all three issues, it is union recognition that in the long run will matter most in the Parliameotary Labour Party.

Oswald, Enoch and David - Britain demands more than charisma



DAVID **AARONOVITCH** DIFFERENT CAREERS. SIMILAR LESSONS

the British Fascists - a forerunner to the British Union of Fascists - kidnapped the Communist leader, Harry Pollitt. On the cootioent Mussolini was consolidating his hold on power, and Hitler was being released from prison where he had completed Mein Kampf. So Mr Pollitt might have expected the worst - to share the recent violent fate of the Italian socialist, Matteotti. lnstead, according to the historian Roger Eatwell, he was released by the embarrassed fascists, who told the judge at their subsequent trial that he had accepted £5 by way of compensation for his inconvenience. Britain was, somehow, different.

This difference really struck home this week, when a coincidence of events led me to think about charismatic political leaders in this couotry. First, last Sunday, Enoch Powell died. Immediately tributes in maoy newspapers testified to the unique qualities of an exceptional man.

Then, 10day, the New Statesman publishes an interview with Dr David Owen, in which he says that he might return to active politics because, "it is bard to stand aside on such an issue as the single curreocy, wheo I believe that what is at stake is the whole history of this country". .Excited Eurosceptics (often the same people as those posthumously praising old Enoch) have instantly begon to talk abut Owen leading the anti-

Euro crusade. And finally, last night saw the first part of Laurence Marks' and Maurice Gran's eojoyable TV blo-drama of Sir put it). So in one week three great lost leaders made demands once more upon our atteotioo. All three were once beld in the kind of regard by some of their cootemporaries that most politicians never experieoce. All three were said to possess rare intellectual gifts, to be meo of destiny, to be prophets standing above party and beyond compromise, to be in direct contact with the soul of the nation. And, in Powell's words, to be odd men out.

Mosley was a stirring orator and possessed - as the Marks and Gran films make clear - a combination of bril-

In March 1925, a crack unit of liance and the attention span of a gnat. He was essentially a moderniser, arguing through the inter-war recessions for New Deal Keynesiansism. His impatience with Labour's impossible gradualism, and his gigantic ego, led him - via byways - to the fashiooahle creed of Fascism, with its impressive colours and cult of absolute leaders. His anti-Semitism was 001 much more than a populist accretion. though that was of little comfort to the Jewish population of Britain.

Powell was no fascist, of course. He too was a moderniser, a man whose intellect had led him to embrace a free market philosophy and to reject the agreed statism that was a feature of the post-war consensus. Like Mosley, he was a beacon to younger, technocratic politicians, impatient with the status quo. He himself had, by 1968, resigned from the Cabinet once, and refused to serve in a shadow cabinet under Alec Douglas-Home.

And, also like Mosley (but in greater contradiction to bis free market views) he adopted the language of race and nation when it suited him to do so. It was not -as bis apologist wish to claim - cold logic or unwavering commitment



Adulation by the few is not enough: Sir Oswald Mosely inspects his troops, 1934

said, somewhat disingenuously. In 1974 he urged a Labour vote over the EEC, and suhsequently became an Ulster Unionist MP.

Owen's history is more familiar and more recent. He Minister, another impatient, handsome technocrat, this

played the game," he later they failed, all three turned to some form of sectionalism, to ancient nationalism and - in the case of Powell and Mosley, to racism. It is interesting to note that what is at stake for Oweo is "the whole history of this country", oot its whole fuwas another future Prime ture. And yet, for all their qualities and capacity to stir the blood, they have all been

Thirties, no successful Oweo-

acted as reluctant John the

Baptists to politicians who as-

siduously played and won the

party game -- Margaret Thatch-

disillusicomeot with party

politicians, we are far more sus-

At best two of them have

ite organisation.

play the party game. The anti-Bonapartist streak in British political life - the same streak that made England so relieved to see the back of the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell - penalises the man or woman without a party. Mosley's failure was partly due to the suspicious among right-wing Tories about him personally and about his infinite capacity for disloyalty. Powell was never forgiven by the Conservative party for his lack of collegiate discipline - and could oever construct a powerbase outside it. David Owen's in-

picious of those who refuse to

him the highest office, In one of the Mosley films Marks and Gran have a Tory friend of Mosley, the MP Bob Bootbby, warn the future fascist leader that Britain "is an old couotry". So it is. It is a country where racial intolerance is not really respectable, where leadership is always constrained, where a single curreocy is oot an issue of life or death, and where fascists give their opponents £5 to

ability to stay in any political

party that was imperfect cost

Mosley: leader, fascist, aldulterer'. Thursdays, Channel 4, 9pm.

All three men were said to possess rare intellectual gifts, to be prophets standing above party and beyond compromise, to be in direct contact with the soul of the nation

Oswald Mosley ("Leader, Fas- Rivers of Blood speech 30 of various parties to compre- ellite movement after 1968, 00 cist, Adulterer" as the hlurh years ago. When he used the head his message and to act Fascist MPs elected in the language of invasion and terror, repeated urbao myths about little old white ladies being terrorised by excreta through the letterbox and by "grinning piccaninnies", be knew that he was acting - in his own words - as a "lightning conductor", and be expected to henefit from that. A few weeks later the tabloid columnist, Jean Rook ("The First Lady of Fleet Street") appeared on Any Questions and told an applauding audience that she would loathe to live next door to a black man.

Paradoxically it was the eod of Powell's career. The Tories shunned him. "I never

to the truth that led to the time of the ceotre. The failure failures. There was on Powupon it - took him through Labour, into the Mark 1 SDP. and when that merged with the Liberals into the Mark 2 SDP, which then folded. And oow he may be cootemplating a return to battle, with further European integration as the casus belli.

> The similarities really are striking, even if one should be careful to note the differences there has oever been a suggestion that David Owen is anything other than a committed anti-racist. All three men were frustrated modernisers, questing for some way of achieving the power to realise their objectives. As

er and Tony Blair. And it says something interesting about this country that this should be cover inconvenience. so. For all the talk about our

How can we learn what's in the food we're about to eat?



ABRAMS MANIPULATED SOYA BEANS

When you get five minutes, why not take a look through your kitchen cuphoards? Like most discerning consumers, you probably think you make positive choices about what you eat. But do you know that within a couple of years most the processed food you buy will contain genetically modified soya designed to survive spraying with weedkiller?

There are major changes taking place in the way our food is produced. British shoppers have indicated they are suspicious of them. Ministers have expressed similar doubts. Just this week they blocked the planting of these crops in Britain and also declared their ... Fil

Soya goes into 60 per cent of the processed food we eat. Soya flour is used to leogthen shelf-life and improve colour in bread, pizza bases, pastry crusts, biscuits and ocodles. Soya oil is used in cooking oil, margarine and spreads. And a third substance, soya lecithin, is used as an emulsifier or stahiliser, and to improve "mouth feel" in products such as mayonnaise and even chocolate.

Although it is just one of a number of modified crops now being developed, soya is the farthest forward. Within the next few years, we will also see modified maize, sugar beet and oilseed rape, among others, produced mainly by half a dozen hig hiotechnology companies.

Ask Joe Public whether he wants to eat geoetically modified food, and the answer will usually be "No", as a number of surveys have shown. But this story is not about what the public wants. It's about what the public is about to get.

Let us look at bow modified soya has come to be developed. Monsanto, an agrochemical company based in St Louis, sells a highly successful glyphosate-based weedkiller called Rouodup, whose US patent runs out in the year 2,000. But Monsanto must now be confident that its product will continue to sell. Why? Because it has developed a modified

----ee farmers'

soya yields by 7 per cent if they spray with Roundup. Forty per cent of the world's soya is grown in America, including the vast majority of what Britain imports.

But how can Monsanto be sure that farmers won't just buy the beans and spray them with a cheaper imitation brand? This is where it gets clever. Monsanto licenses its technology to seed producers, who then sell on to farmers. Farmers pay a small fee for the use of the seed and also sign an agreement that says they must spray their crops with branded Roundup. By the time the patent runs out, the British Retail Consortium estimates that 90 per cent of the US crop could be treated in this way. Brilliant.

The men from Monsanto say this is not their motivation. To quote Colin Mercitt, the company's UK Technical Manager. We are moving into a business which is based on seed rather than purely based oo chemicals. Many of our other developments are entirely different with just seed and no chemical involved." This new technology actually reduces the amount of chemicals sprayed on crops, Mr Merritt explains. And it is approved by the American Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), the European Union

and the British government. So where's the beef? Why are the environmentalists making such a big fuss?

Despite the regulatory system's approval, there are some very knowledgeable people who feel we do not yet know enough about the possible health risks involved in a range of modified crops. For example Professor Philip James, author of the proposals for the Government's Food Standards Agency and Director of the Rowett Research Institute at the University of Aberdeen, said on a Scottish BBC documentary this month: "The perception that everything is totally straightforward and safe is totally naive," He added: "Once the BSE problem is solved, if is is solved, then I think that the big public concern is going to be about the huge array of genetic manipulations and how we tackle that in a

proper, responsible way." And while the FDA is renowned for its tough attitude, does sometimes approve foods that remain banned in the UK. Crisps made with Olestra, a fat substitute which passes straight through the body but which, it is claimed, can strip the body of essential nutrients and cause stomach cramps or diahorrea, are on sale in the US but not bere.

As yet, there is no clear evidence to suggest genetically modified food is generally dangerous to human health. But, as the Consumers' Association argues, the effects will be bard to discern when we are all eat- sell Square, London: the

ing the stuff. Jeff Rooker, the Agriculture Minister, says that if the Government had been elected a year or 18 months earlier it might have demanded segregation of these crops. Now be must hope that government research will show there are oo potential health problems.

"If they don't come up with something I for one will not be prepared to give robust answers about it all being safe for ever more," he says.

Then there is the question of environmental impact. What if the beans cross-pollinate with wild plants - possibly wild soya to create indestructible weeds? Monsanto says its gene cannot transfer in this way, but environmentalists have their

The battle to bring genetically modified soya to Britain now centres on a PR war, pitting the resources of Monsanto against such organisations as the Consumers' Association. Greenpeace and a group called Wholefoods against Genetix Foods. Monsanto employs a PR firm, Lowe Bell, but you will rarely see the company's name on any publicity material. Its representative can be found in the 1997 phone book under Soya Bean Information Centre. If you phone this centre, you

will find its came is now the

Plant Biotech Informatioo Cen-

tre. And it is based at 59 Rus-

address of Lowe Bell, Alternatively, the switchboard at Monsanto's headquarters in High Wycombe will put you through there.

Or you might like to get some information from the Food and Drinks Federation's "Food for Our Future" carppaign, to which Monsanto says it gives financial support, although the FDF denies this.

What if you still don't like the idea of genetically modified food? This is an issue about consumers' rights, but consumers can only exercise their right to choose what they huy if they are fully informed. And even though the supermarkets plan to label products which contain soya as having genetically modified material in them, they will do so only at the bottom of a list of ingredients, and only when they redesign their packaging.

If ministers are really concerned about this issue, as they say they are, why not insist on tobacço style "health warnings," prominently placed and in large letters? They could say: "Warning: No one really knows what genetically modified food can do to your health."

Then shoppers could make up their own minds about what they want to eat. If Monsanto has won its PR battle for our hearts and minds, we will buy the products regardless. But if it has not, sooner or later they will disappear from our shelves.



Off list price. Minimum order value \$725. Offer open only at time of quotation. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Different discounts apply to conservatories.

Everest, Everest House, FREEPOST, Cuffley, Herts EN6 4YA.



LCR chiefs to collect £600,000 as taxpayer faces £800m bill

By Michael Harrison

Directors of Londoo & Contineotal Railways, the failed Channel rail link consortium, are set to collect pay-offs totalling £600,000 while taxpayers face a bill of up to £800m to cover its liabilities, it emerged last night.

The four executive directors, led by chairman Sir Derek Hornby and chief executive Adam Mills, are all on one-year contracts and an LCR spokesman confirmed these would be honoured if the consortium was put into liquidation.

Meanwhile, it became clear that LCR's liabilities, which will revert back to the Government should the consortium be wound up, are far higher than initial estimates.

In addition to taking on LCR's £430m of hank deht, which includes £140m represents the money spent oo preparatory and engineering work on the 68-mile link, the taxpayer would also inherit the consortium's leasing liabilities on its fleet of Eurostar trains. These are understood to total around £275m. Further liabilities relating to work carried out and contracts entered into bring the total to nearly £800m.

In contrast, the liabilities of LCR's eight shareholders. which include Richard Bran-



have been paid £200,000

soo's Virgin Group, Europe's biggest bank SBC Warburg Dillon Read and Bechtel, America's second higgest construction company, are restricted to the £100m of equity they out in.

An LCR spokesman said yesterday that there was oo question of the consortium shouldering any liabilities beyood those it was cootractually obliged to accept under the agreement drawn up with Sir George Young, the then Transport Secretary, in 1996.

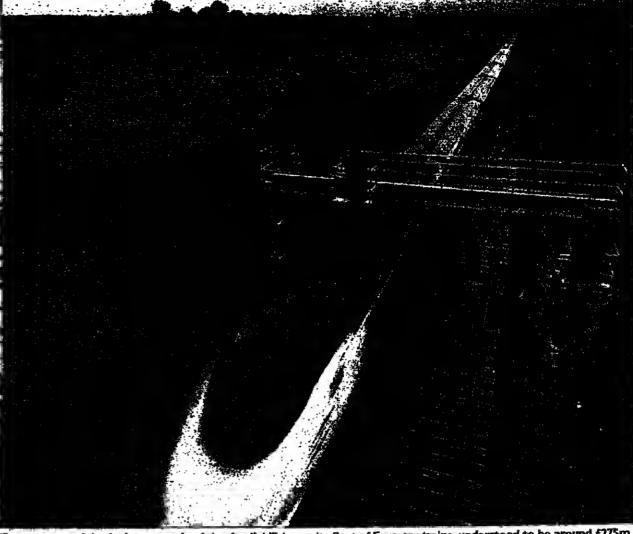
These arrangements were not widely publicised at the time but one can only assume the government of the day felt this was the correct way to get the deal done," he added.

Senior ministers have grown increasingly alarmed at the extent of the liabilities faced by tarpayers and view LCR's directors with barely disguised

LCR retorts that had Eurostar and the rail link project remained within the public sector, then taxpayers would be far worse off than they are now. "At least the taxpayer has been spared the £100m we invested in the project. There is no appetite among shareholders to shoulder five times that amount," said one senior member of the consortium. Mr Mills is thought to have

been paid around £200,000 last year and Sir Derek about £100,000, not including pension entitlements. The other two executives, finance director Robert Holden and Union Rail managing director John Neerhout, are thought to have received around £160,000 and £100,000 respectively. The spokesman said they were fully entitled to compensation for loss of office under their service

The £100m of equity capital put up by the shareholders will be mainly used to run down the company and ensure a solvent liquidation. LCR's own liabilities consist mainly of creditors, including staff, property obligations and responsi-



Taxpayers may inherit the consortium's leasing liabilities on its fleet of Eurostar trains, understood to be around £275m

hility for some continuing Eurostar losses.

LCR employs about 30 staff at its corporate headquarters while Union Railways, the subsidiary responsible for managing the high-speed rail link, employs a further 150. LCR also has a contractual relationship with Rail Link Engiocering, a joint vecture made up of four LCR shareholders

which is designing the link and which employs 950 people.

The rolling stock lease liabilities on Eurostar's seven trains are in the region of £175m. Eurostar has a further £100m of leasing liabilities through its 61 per cent stake in Nightstock, a joint venture with the German, French and Dutch railways.

Meanwhile, Railtrack, one of the leading contenders to take over the project, confirmed after a board meeting last night that it would give "serious consideration to any sensible proposal" oo conditioo it served the interests of shareholders and did not compromise its existing investment programme.

Railtrack's preferred option is a cul-price scheme that

the £5.4bn LCR would have needed. Under this option. Railtrack would build the highspeed link only as far as Southfleet in Kent and then continue the route on existing track into Waterloo International. This would save the costs of nunnelling under central Loodon and constructing a new terminus at St Pancras.

Outlook, page 23

Hollick empire loses second senior executive

By Peter Thal Larsen and Nigel Cope

United News & Media, Lord Hollick's embattled media empire, yesterday parted company with its second senior executive in as many months wheo chief operating officer David Arculus announced that be was stepping down after just nine months in the job.

Mr Arculus is understood to he considering an offer to become chairman of IPC, the magazine group which was recently the subject of a management buyout by Cinven, the veoture capital group.

A spokesman for Cinven refused to comment but said: "At some stage Cinven will be looking to appoint a chairman of IPC, as with all its investee

Mr Arculus, who belped build up magazine group Emap before he was lured to United, is believed to have quit after deciding it was not possible to work underneath Lord Hollick, United's hands-on chief executive, who has not taken as

active a role in the government as many expected him to.

When David joined before the election everyone assumed that Hallick would speed more time advising the Government," said one industry source. "But Hollick is not that close to the

leadership of the Labour Party." "He may have thought that it would be his show," said another. "But Hollick seems to be there all the time."

Mr Arculus declined bluntly to comment on his departure. I'm not saving anything."

Mr Arculus's departure follows shortly after the news that Stepheo Grabiner, who runs United's regional and coosumer otles, would be leaving to take up the job of chief executive of British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the television group

News of Mr Arculus' departure pushed United's share price down 26p to 692p. But analysts said this was an over-reaction. "He baso't been at United long enough to make a difference," said one.

Mr Arculus has a contract



David Arculus: Stepping down after nine months

which ends in April 1997. His pay has never been disclosed, but his annual salary is believed to be well above the £360,000 he received while at Emap. Some industry sources suggested his payoff could be as high as flm, although a company spokesman said negotiations were still continuing.

The departure prompted some in the industry to suggest that Mr Arculus is difficult to work with. He left Eman after 25 years after a simmering rivalry for the top job with chief executive Richard Miller.

Outlook, page 23

Pennant-Rea consortium received £4m sweetener to buy bargain-priced HMSO

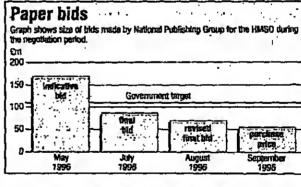
A consortium led by the former deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Rupert Pennant-Rea, received a £4m sweetener to purchase the Stationery Office eveo though the final sale price was half the Government's target valuation, it emerged yesterday.

National Publishing Group, the company formed by Mr Pennant-Rea and the venture capitalists Electra Fleming, paid £54m for the Stationery Office in September, 1996.

But a highly critical report on the sale published yesterday by the National Audit Office, the Government's financial watchdog, disclosed that National Publishing Group's initial indicative hid was £170m while the Government's advisers, Conpers & Lybrand, put a "benchmark valuation" of £110m on the

The report revealed bow the winning consortium whittled down its offer price over a fourmonth period as the deteriorating state of the Stationery Office's finances and business prospects became apparent.

It also disclosed that io the



final few days before the husiness was sold, the Stationery Office was nearly bankrupted. suspending payments to suppliers because it was in danger of breaching its £50m statutory borrowing limit.

The Cabinet Office under the Chancellor of the Ducby of Lancaster, Roger Freeman, therefore agreed to pay National Publishing the cash balances in the business at the point of sale which amounted to £3.8m.

The Cabinet Office justified the payment on the grounds that: "Failure to compensate the purchaser in this way might well have led to a breakdown in the deal negotiations."

National Publishing subse-

quently told the NAO that the additional amounts owed to creditors exceeded the cash sweetener by £2m. Since the takeover, it has also axed 1,000 jobs from the workforce of 2,500 at a cost of £54m.

The Pennant-Rea consortium was one of 14 groups that submitted initial indicative hids in May, 1996. Its offer, at a price range of £150m to £170m was £9m more than the next highest bid from Hambros.

By the time it submitted its final bid in July, the price had been cut to £86m. In August it cut the offer price to £69m, citing risks associated with taking on the businesses and other additional costs. In September it reto £54m because of delays in fioalising completion accounts.

The NAO report is severely critical of the way the Stationery, Office was run in the build-up to the sale, accusing it of "poor financial and management control", producing over-optimistic turnover and profit forecasts and having a badly-executed restructuring programme.

Although the original plan had been to float the business in 1997, the NAO said that the decision to bring forward the sale had no impact. "We found no evidence to suggest that a delay in the sale to improve the profitability of the business would have produced better

value for money." The costs of the sale to the taxpayer were £2.2m - equal to 4 per cent of the proceeds.

Last night, Mr Pennant-Rea said the NAO report confirmed that the taxpayer had received value for money. Given the failure of state ownership to restructure the business, the disciplines of the private sector were essential to secure the long-term health of

Shake-up in cables industry to cost 870 jobs

BICC and Delta yesterday announced a radical shake-up of their troubled cables operations which will lead to 870 job losses in the UK and a string of factory closures.

Sites in north London, Swansea, Derby and Wrexham will close as part of the huge restructuring operation which will see the two companies swap large parts of their cable businesses in an effort to stem plung- (1)

ing profits. The deals leave BICC to concentrate on heavy duty cable for the power transmission industry, based at its factory in

Delta will be focused on cable for the construction industry at its existing plants in Llanelli

and Derby. The move has been prompt ed by the dramatic slump in the European cables market has

been dogged by over capacity. BICC has already been forced to announce mass redundancies in Italy and Germany as part of a wide scale rationalisatioo of the business. The company has axed more than

ness over the last twelve months. as part of a £45m cost-cutting ргодтатте. Alan Jones, chief executive of BICC, insisted that this would be the last major restructuring of the

2,000 workers from its cable busi-

group's cables business for some "When I arrived at BICC there was a lot of tidying up to

do and this is the end of that tidying up program. This makes our cables business much stronger," Joo Scott-Maxwell, chief ex-

ecutive of Delta, said: "Delta is participating in the long overdue. rationalisation of the European cables industry. I believe our cable business now has a long term future, whether that is with us or with somebody else. Delta is likely to look to sell the business as soon as possible as part of its strategy to concentrate oo its electrical and manganese

divisions. In a complicated swap of assets BICC will pay Delta £5m. It has also bought Delta's copper rod mill for £17.8m at Enfield which will be closed down, with production shifted to Merseyside.

The reorganisation will cost BICC £140m and Delta £49m in asset write-downs and redundancy costs. BICC plans to close Delta's power cables business in Enfield, north London, Swansea and Derby after acquiring them as part of the deal.

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THE OFFER

Delta's shares jumped 18p to 265p and BICC's shares rose 0.5p to 140p. "This looks: like a good deal for both sides. in a dire market," said one industry analyst. 3!

Investment column, page 24.

BT abandons television broadcasting hopes

By Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

British Telecom has abandoned bopes of offering mainstream televisioo channels down its telephone wires, in favour of a drive to improve Internet services for home com-The decision, confirmed

yesterday by Sir Peter Bonfield,

BT's chief executive, came as the company revealed a 12 per cent rise in profits between October and December, to

Sir Peter gave the clearest signal vet that BT is no longer interested in using its network tn offer entertainment programmes, despite the longrunning campaign to end the Government's broadcasting

Milde

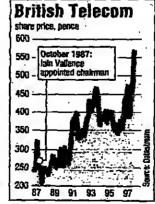
ban. The Department of Trade and lodustry looks set to announce the lifting of the ban in 2000, a year earlier under the previous government's policy.

"It is extremely unlikely we'll be squirting television channels down our wires," said Sir Peter, adding that the technology had moved on since BT had talked of investing £15bo to bring fibre-optic cable to every home in the country. BT will shortly begin two home trials offering much faster Internet access through its existing copper local network.

Sir Peter said talks were continuing with several US operators, but be said there were "no discussions" underway with Cable & Wireless. He hinted that BT would ask shareholders for the power to make share buybacks at the anoual meeting in July, but insisted no decisions had been

The company's residential customer base grew by 10,000 lines in the last quarter, despite growing competition from cable companies. Losses from the company's expanding European operations were running at £300m a year.

Wil oi Mal



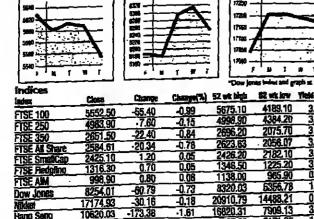
Vallance goes part-time at BT

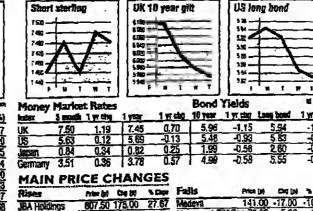
Sir lain Vallance is to relinquish his role as executive chairman of British Telecom from August, moving to a part time position with the company after more than 10 years at the helm.

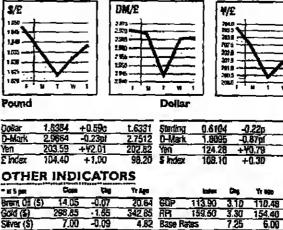
BT said Sir Iain would stay on as ono-executive chairman until bis contract expires in 2000, but that he would also explore outside interests. He is vice chairman of Royal Bank of Scotland and a board member

of Mobil. Sir Iain, who is 55, will receive an annual pension of £281,000, along with a reduced salary, without bonuses, which has yet to be decided by BT's pay committee. In the year to last April he was paid a basic. salary of £485,000. plus an annual bonus of £185,000. However Sir Iain has for several years paid his cash bonuses to The Princess Royal Trust for

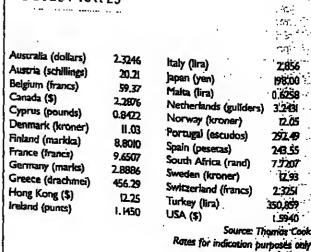
STOCK MARKETS







TOURIST RATES





OUTLOOK ON FALLOUT FROM LCR CRISIS. DAVID ARCULUS' RESIGNATION. AND A THUMBS DOWN TO THE INDONESIAN CURRENCY BOARD.

LCR gives taxpayers Chumbawamba treatment

When the hicycling baronet, Sir George to take such assertions with a pinch of salt. Young, awarded London & Continental Railways the Channel rail link concession in 1996, it must have completely skipped his mind that the whole idea behind such projects was to transfer risk from the public to the private

With the consortium about to go belly up and Eurostar ripe for renationalisation it transpires that, far from picking up the tab, LCR's well-heeled shareholders look like passing £800m of liabilities back to the taxpayer.

At the very worst, the eight shareholders (SBC Warburg Dillon Read, Bechtel, National Express, Virgin, SNCF, London Electricity, Ove Arup and Sir William Halcrow and Partners) will end up shouldering losses of £100m. With balance sheets the size of SBC's such a sum is hardly likely to break the bank.

More importantly, this surely cannot have been the sort of risk-reward ratio that the Conservative government had in mind when it invented the Private Finance Initiative. When it came to the rail link, there was plenty of initiative on display, but sadly not much of it came from inside the Department of Transport.

Is LCR cootrite? Not a bit of it. With breathtaking chutzpah, the consortium cheerily suggests it has actually done the taxpayer a giant favour. Had it not come along two years ago and takeo Eurostar and the rail link project off the Government's hands, then the losses being funded out of public money would be a lot higger today.

Given LCR's ability to get a two-year traffic forecast wrong by a margin of 150 per ceot, some people might be inclined

Certainly John Prescott is unimpressed. LCR has pulled off the financial equivalent of what Chumbawamba achieved with

At the very least, the LCR débacle demands that the Treasury examine all the other PFI projects so far let to see whether the playing field is tilted in a similar direction. LCR's shareholders are contractually within their rights to pass the buck to the taxpayer. But equally, governments have all manner of things in their gift - such as airport slots, rail subsidies, public sector contracts and mandates for investment banking advice. Revenge, Mr Prescott may reflect, is a dish best served cold.

It's been a pleasure working for you ...

A letter from David Arculus, who resigned abruptly as chief operating officer at United News and Media yesterday, to an old chum at the top international headbunting firm of Lewis, Baoger and Ratheon, appears bizarrely to have been misdirected and as a consequence has turned up in the Independent's postbag. In the ioterests of transparency, we bere reproduce it. "Dear Sir D ... [name withheld to protect confidentiality],

"As I write, my name is being put to one of those ridiculous sweetness and light press releases announcing that I'm on my bike after just nine mooths in the job but with no hard feelings. I'm quoted as saying it

has been a real pleasure working for United while Lord Stevens, who hasn't spoken to me for months, says what an important contribution I've made to the company. Ha! As you can imagine, my comments are through clenched teeth, arm twisted behind back and a grinning lawyer waving my contract before me.

"Actually its been one of the most frustrating nine months of my life, much worse than my long-running feud while at Emap with Richard Miller. At least that was good fun and the company was going places. I think the problem was that at United I was brought in under false pretences. I was led to believe that Lord Hollick would be taking an increasingly back-seat role, that he would be spending large amounts of his time with his new Labour cronies, advising Margaret Beckett oo competition policy and the like.

"Not a bit of it. In recent months, the Frenchman has been more hands on than ever. When I tried to shoe horn my way onto the television side of the group, they said I knew F-all about it and shut me out. It wasn't much better with the newspapers, which also had their own boss, Steven Grabiner. I suppose you've had a hand here, for he's about to depart for pastures new as well. If you recall, he was the man responsible for such triumphs of newspaper marketing as the £1-a-week Telegraph, but even so I couldn't get a look in.

"Round at Emap they seem to believe I was planning some kind of triumphant return by launching a United News and Media hid for the company. I have to say that even if I'd wanted to, I'd never have got it

through the bearded baron. He wouldn't let me bid for IPC and he wouldn't even let me acquire the Automader magazine group. What I'm saying here is that for heaven's sake next time get me a job where I'm the undisputed boss, and not somebody else's lackey. By the way, I've already had several offers (who knows, I might even end up at IPC after all), so if you want your commission you'd bet-

ter get a move on. Yours in anticipation, David."

Currency board lacks credibility

Robert Rubin, the US Treasury secretary, has given the thumbs down to Indonesia's plan to introduce a currency board. As he put it delicately in evidence to Congress, there were "a lot of issues" about whether the country would have enough credibility in the financial markets to be able to adhere to it. As he spoke, the rupiah was again in free fall, plunging 9 per cent as investors fretted about President Suharto's financial reforms - or lack of them - and growing political unrest.

Currency boards can sometimes work very effectively. The basic idea is that the board replaces the central bank, issuing domestic currency only when it is backed at a fixed exchange rate by a foreign currency such as the US dollar. If anybody in the private sector exports goods or brings in overseas investment they sell their dollars to the currency board in return for local currency, and vice versa. Local money supply can only increase if the country's foreign reserves in-

crease. The effect is to prevent all political meddling in the domestic economy, which becomes wholly controlled by the markets.

Currency boards have a long history, the first being set up in Mauritius in 1849. From there they spread throughout the British colonies. Gibraltar and the Falklands still have one. Hong Kong revived its own version in 1983 after a currency crisis triggered by doubts about the handover, and Argentina introduced one in 1991 after a severe hyperinflation.

These two are generally deemed to have worked well, sustaining confidence and keeping inflation low. So why are there doubts about Indonesia's proposal? One obvious concern is that the fluctuations in interest rates that can result from a currency board require either a very strong banking system, which indonesia does not have, or a genuine willingness to let banks fail. Even if the regime has such will, it is not clear that a swift and brutal round of failures is the best approach in a tottering economy.

But the real catch is that a currency board can not substitute for credibility in the broader sense. There are suspicions that President Suharto wants the board so that an exchange rate of around 5,000 rupiah to the dollar can be set. That would help his family-owned companies meet their foreign debts. A rate of 8,000, which would be more in the wider interests of the country, could prove financially ruinous to Mr Suharto. Currency boards are often a highly effective mechanism for restoring international confidence in an economy, hut they cannot be expected to work for the greater good when operated by essentially corrupt and nepotistic regimes. The IMF should have no truck with Mr Suharto's plans.

Transco warns over pace of gas competition

By Chris Godsmark

. .

More than 1 million homes have so far switched from British Gas to new suppliers as the domestic market moves to towards full competition, the gas watchdog Ofgas revealed yesterday.

But as Ofgas released the figures. Transco, the pipeline network, warned of "critical" risks to Ofgas's accelerated timetable to complete the roll-

out of domestic competition. Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, said the customers numbers were "an north-east of England were important milestone," with al-

most ooe in four homes abandoning British Gas in areas where competition has been introduced. The figures included 956,800 customers who had already switched to alternative independent gas companies, along with more than 40,000 others who were waiting for

Transco to process the move. The roll-out began with trials in South-west England in Spring 1996 and has spread to Avon, Dorset, Keot and Sussex. Around a further 2 million consumers in Scotland and the able to choose their gas supplier

last November, Ofgas said another 400,000 households bad signed up with a new supplier in the next competitive area. which covers 2.8 million bomes in Greater Manchester and North Yorkshire and goes live on 27 February.

However the beadline statistics hide marked regional differences in the willingness of customers to abandon British Gas. In Scotland and the Northeast, where just over 400,000 homes have switched from British Gas, rival suppliers were surprised by the slower than expected switch rate. Transco's in-

tensified warning about the pace of competition reflected Ofgas's decision to opeo the final two areas of the market over a 48 hour period. Choice will be extended to 3.1 million bomes stretching from East Anglia to Hampshire on 22 May, with the final 3.2 million customers in Greater Loodon and Surrey included on the following day. There was originally a four week gap between the two re-

gions in the previous timetable. Transco, which is building new computer systems to track customers, said there remained "a high prohability that errors



Clare Spottiswoode:

will occur which will require immediate action to remedy". The pipeline operator said the roll-out was also critically dependent on new suppliers' ability to cope with demand.

Welcomes competition

Watmoughs finds white knight and shares soar in value

By Peter Thal Larsen

The battle for cootrol of Watmoughs took a new twist yesterday as the printing group, which has been resisting a £188.3m hostile offer from Canadian rival Quebecor, announced that it was in talks with a poteotial white knight.

Shares in Watmoughs surged 46.5p to 320p as the company announced that it was in talks with an unnamed hidder which could make a cash offer of "substantially" more than 300p per sbare. Quebecor's offer stands at 257p.

The identity of the bidder remains a mystery. Analysts sug-

gested that American printers RR Donnelley & Sons and World Color were the most likely candidates. Roto Smeets de Boer, a Dutch firm, was also linked with Watmoughs but denied that it had made an of-

Quebecor pointed out that its bid was still awaiting regulatory clearance and that it would "clarify its position" once the Office of Fair Trading and Department of Trade and Industry had ruled on the bid. Analysts have long argued that Quebecor would have to raise its bid in order to win approval. However, many thought that an offer around

290p a share would be enough to win the contest. Watmoughs' share price has traded above 257p - the level of Quebecor's offer - ever since the hid was first announced.

The arrival of a white knight surprised many observers. Watmoughs has consiste otly argued that it would be best placed to realise value for shareholders if it remained as an independent company.

But few sharebolders believed that the management team was strong enough to replace chief executive Patrick Walker, who came back into the joh from semi-retirement last year, when he steps down.

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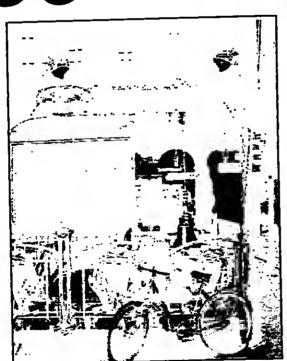
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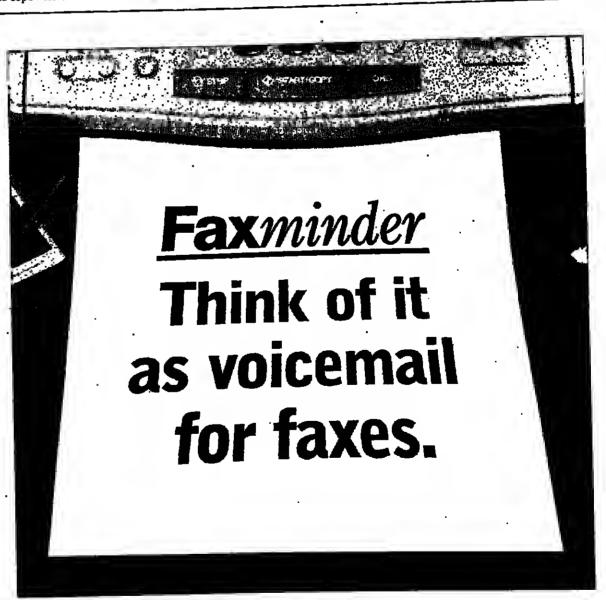
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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Brokers may be bargain buy

Britain's insurance broking sector has been a dire performer in recent years. Since 1993, it has underperformed the market by almost 60 per cent due to falling commissions and intense competition. Willis Corroon and Sedgwick, the only two brokers of any size left in the UK, have born the brunt of the industry turmoil. The sector has increasingly suffered from a growing trend among multinational corporations to cut out the mid-

Many companies have now grown to such a size that using an insurance company to cover a husiness risk is becoming increasingly impractical. They are instead setting up their own, captive insurance companies 10 cover day-to-day

Bigger risks such as earthquakes or floods are still put out to reinsurers. But more often than not, companies are bypassing brokers to deal with the handful of reinsurers who take on these kind

This logic has taken a particularly strong hold in the US, where brokers such as Willis Corroon derive half their income. The trend has led to downward pressure on premium rates, reducing commission income for brokers. That has inevitably lead to the consolidation of the industry. One by one, the brokers have been eliminated. Now there are just four: the two British firms and their giant US rivals, Marsh & MacLennan and Aon.

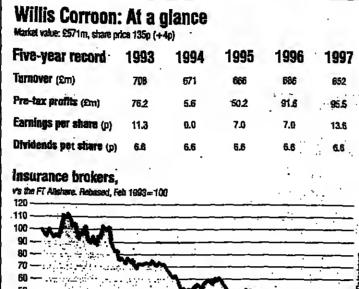
That consolidation seems to have broking market will remain tough. That paused for now. John Reeve, Willis Corroon's executive chairman, has stubbornly resisted pressure to merge with Sedewick, and hostile takeovers are difficult in what is seen as a people business.

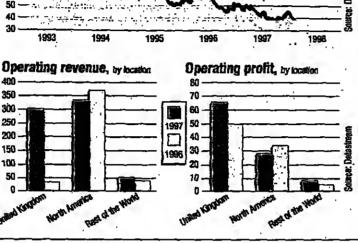
Against this turbulent background yesterday's full year results from Willis pleased the market, with profits coming Shell big enough in comfortably ahead of expectations at £95.5m (£91.6m).

Willis has chosen a different course to Sedgwick, which has looked to win more fees rather than commission-based work, as evidenced by its acquisition of Noble Lowndes. Instead it has been able to increase commissions by using a system whereby the insurer agrees to pay higher commission in return for receiving a greater volume of profitable business.

Willis has also managed to boost US business with companies over there looking to spread business amongst the brokers still left in the business.

Analysts have pencilled in earnings of





said the shares are now sitting at such a large discount to the stock market they are beginning to look attractive. If trading gets much worse it can only heighten takeover speculation.

to brave storm

For a company of Shell's size, one bad quarter barely rates as a blip. Still, yesterday's full-year results, which showed pre-tax profits falling by 36 per making a 14 per cent fall to £9.3hn in the full year, served as a useful reminder that the Anglo-Dutch oil giant is proving even harder to turn around than one of its supertankers. been taking place in the past twelve

falling oil price, the strong pound, and the crisis in Asia.

The gloom spread virtually across all of Sbell's main husinesses. Exploration and production earnings fell because of the lower oil price and warmer weather, while downstream charges. Chemicals suffered from the strength of sterling and lower margins in certain product areas. The figure that worried investors

most, bowever, was the drop in Shell's return oo capital employed to from 13.3 per cent to 11.4 per cent io the final quarter. Shell aims to get returns ceot to £1.8bo in the fourth quarter, up to 15 per cent by 2001 and 13 per cent by the end of this year. But if the oil price does oot improve, oo amount of frantic cost-cutting will allow it to achieve that.

For all the restructuring that bas the company's decision to raise the div-share price collapse BICC's shares still idends paid by Shell Transport & Trad- don't look cheap but it probably worth ing, its UK parent, to reflect the loss shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 9. The from the combined effects of the of the associated tax credit. The re-recovery is finally round the corner.

sult is that brokers are now forecasting that the dividend will grow by at least 12 per cent this year and next.

So what to do with the shares? In the grand scheme of things, yesterday's 10.25p fall to 411.5p is probahly a hit of an overreaction. If you have to hold an oil stock, Shell is probably the most attractive: it's less exposed to the oil sector than its peers and bas the benefit of more restructuring to come. But, as always, change is going to be slow.

Cable swap boosts shares

The slump in the European cable market has produced a shocking share price performance at BICC and Delta. So yesterday's deal to swap cable operations looks an eminently sensible move.

Delta appears to have got the best out of the deal in the short term. It gets a £5m cash payment and cements its position in the building and construction market. More importantly by chopping costs and focusing the husiness, it becomes more saleable. Jon Scott-Maxwell, Delta's chief executive, has made oo secret of the fact that the group's future does not lie in cables as it cannot hope to compete with the largest players on a European stage. This deal can only bring forward the division's disposal. So it is easy to see why Delta's shares jumped 18p to 265p on the news.

The response at BICC, however, was more muted with the shares edging up just 0.5p to 140p. Nobody is quite sure whether the cables market has reached the bottom. If it has, then BICC could emerge as the real winner from this deal, but it is a big if. All the hig cables groups have taken huge amounts of capacity profits were hit by restructuring out of the market, but only time will tell if their actions have been enough to restore profitability.

The extent of the industry's probiems have takeo even the company by surprise. Despite chief executive Alan Jones' best efforts, BICC's shares have underperformed the market by almost 60 per cent over the last year and have fallen from 465.5p in 1994.

Analysts forecast 1997 profits at BICC of around £110m, putting the shares on a prospective PE ratio of 15. The cable swap should help 1998 prof-In fact, the only spot of light was its to rise to around £135m. Despite the holding on in the hope that the illusive

Celcis shares drop after profits warning

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Shares in Celsis International the hiotech company founded by the scientist Chris Evans and chaired by former England rugby coach Jack Rowell, lost 27 per cent of their value yesterday after the company issued a profits warning. The shares slumped 19p to a record low of 51.5p when the company said adverse currency factors and the financial turmoil in Asia meant current year profits were unlikely to meet analysts forecasts of £1m-£3m. The shares are now barely half the 100p issue price when the group came to the market in 1993.

The announcement was pounced upon by bear raider Simon Cawkwell who been selling the shares "in the high 70s [pence]" the previous day. Mr Cawkwell, who is known in the market as "Evil Knievel", bought some shares back yesterday as the price fell sharply. However, he said that the company still faced difficulties. "It looks to me as if they have lost their way." Some analysts questioned

whether the profits alert would lead to management changes. But Arthur Holden, Celsis' chief executive, said oo decisions had been taken. "The company will review the situation after the dust has settled and take the appropriate action." Founder Chris Evans is a noo-executive director of the

growth."

Company founder:

group. Separately the company said it had unified the distribution of its Hygiene monitoring product Life SystemSURE, by granting its US distributor Becton Dickinson exclusive rights worldwide... This has delayed short-term products sales for markets outside the US. But the company said it believed the new arrangement would provide a more efficient long-term solu-

In its statement, Celsis added that it was "developing a number of important new product initiatives for exploiting its proprietary technology and remains confident about the prospects for continued

Celsis makes bygiene mon-itoring kits which detect contamination in food.

In October, the company raised £3.7m through the placing of new shares at 95p. The cash was raised to help fund the £4.4m purchase of Scientific Associates, a contract testing centre in the US.

Celsis shares reached a peak nf 141.5p m 1995.

Waterstone's founder returns as figurehead

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

The sale of the Waterstone's bookselling chain to EMI and Tim Waterstone is expected to be announced in two weeks with a price tag of around £300m. EMI's due diligence is now in its final stages and the deal with WH Smith should be completed oext mooth.

It is thought that Mr Waterstooe's Daisy & Tom children's stores will be included in the hut will not have a major operoew company, though at a greatly reduced valuation.

The two Daisy & Tom stores are expected to be valued at just £2m-£3m. This is a fraction of the £30m price tag which WH was attaching to the chain when e made his audacious £1hn offer for the WH Smith group last However, the main sharehold- £135m is acticipated 1250

Daisy & Tom will be grouped together with Waterstone's and EMI's Dillons book stores and its HMV music chain. Some Dillons stores will be converted to the Waterstone's format. No decision has been made on further conversions but is expected that the Dillons name will survive in

Tim Waterstooe will be chairman of the oew company ational role. The books business will be run by Alan Giles, Waterstone's chief executive, with HMV run by Stuart McAllister, its existing managing director.

some form.

Mr Waterstone will emerge

ers will be EMI and Advect loternational, the US venture capital group that is backing Mr Waterstooe. The plan is to de-merge the

ed company. EMI is thought to favour an early exit though it is not clear if Mr Waterstooe will The Waterstone's deal have a looger term role would lead to talks starting

husiness into a seperately quot-

once more between WH Smith and Virgin over the Virgin-Our Price music business.

Virgin, which owns 25 per ceot of the company, is interested in acquiring Smith's 75 per ceot stake. It is understood that Smith's chief executive, Richard Handover, did not Smith claimed Mr Waterstooe from the deal with an equity want to start negotiations until stake in the oew business as he the Waterstone's deal was cominvesting several millions. pleted. A value of around

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

£10 Conran lunch

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout February for £10

Until Saturday February 28th, the following establishments are offering readers a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10 per person.

How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting yourself as an Independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer. simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all hookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.









THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT Valid between Saturday February 7th and Friday February 13th Address

1901. Uestus Dane Chiese

The Independent offer is available at the following restaurants:

Bluebird 350 King's Road, London, SW3 5UU 0171 559 1000 Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Blue Print Café The Design Museum, 28 Shad Thames, London, SEI Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm®

Le Pont de la Tour 8 ar & Grill 36d Shad Thames, London, SEI 2YE 0171 403 8403

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, London, WIV 3LE 0171 314 4000

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm dosed Saturday lunchtime, open Sunday 12pm - 4pm

Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SWIY 6AL Lunch 12noon - 3pm. early evening supper 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Zinc Bar & Grill 21 Heddon Street, London, WIR 7LF The special 3 course menu is available between 12ncon and 7pm between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until 1 pm

The offer is available 7 days a week at all six restaurants * Closed from 6pm on Sunday Offer not available after 6pm on February 14

FTSE to get 15-second update after 23 February

The FTSE 100 Index of leading shares will be calculated every 15 seconds from February 23. FTSE International, said yesterday. At present the index is calculated every minute. FTSE International said it meant the index would reflect

market movements faster and enable increased visibility for investors following the UK market. Meanwhile, the options market LIFFE said it would in-

troduce an electronic trading system for equity derivatives on individual stocks on 30 November. The new system, called LIFFE CONNECT will allow investors to trade derivatives on electronic screens, using a system that matches buy and sell orders.

Government pension cut

More than 800,000 people will see the government's contribution to their pension slashed because of a decision by the DSS, a survey revealed yesterday.

The annual survey by the National Association of Pension Funds, which covers 611 schemes worth £370bn, revealed 11 per cent of members are in schemes which face a cut in rebates paid to pension schemes by the DSS. The decision, which takes effect in April next year, has the same effect as cutting the pay of those employees by 0.9 per cent.

Phone firm sales surge

Colt Telecom, the fast expanding group huilding business phones networks in European cities, yesterday revealed a 133 per cent surge in sales last year to £81.5m. Paul Chishoim, Colt's chief executive, said the company was on course to double the number of cities covered by the end of this year from six to twelve, including Zurich and Brussels. Colt's losses rose from £11.2m to £32.5m. Colt shares, which have doubled since a secondary issue last November, rose by 25p to

'Don't tax parking' call

Retailers urged the Chancelinr not to introduce a tax on car park spaces in next month's Budger. In its pre-Budger submission the British Retail Consortium said this would tax shoppers and raise inflation without reducing car use. It also urged that any new revenues from environmental taxes should be ring-lenced for spending an improved transport.

The BRC added that the minimum wage would increase the average weekly shopping hill by 3p or less than 0.1 per cent if it were set at £3.50. It urged the level should be hased on total pay, including commissions and pension contributinus, and just the hourly wage.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend
Armitage Bres (I)	15.20m j15.52mj	1.07m [1.03m)	18.3p (17.1p)	3 3p (3.3p)
British Telecour (0)	3 94m (3.76m)	1.02bn (909.0m)	11.2p (9.4p)	ni
Cala (i)	45.03m (44.19m)	4.9m (2.7m)	7.89p (4.21p)	1.45p (1.30p
Memory Corp (F)	6.70m (1.06m)	-331m)-4.54m)	-5.08p (-7 49p) 19K
Stordets Salations (F)	- {-}	-5.42m (1 50m)	-5 88p (1.25p)	0.20p (0.50p
Tampel Life Sciences (I)	0 096m (0.134m)	-0.1m (0.650m)	-2.5p (1.3p)	8.6p (6.6p)
Ward Heldings (F)	37 93m (-)	4.35m)-2.98m(7.0p (-5.7p)	1 Sp (2.6p)
Westminster Health C (1)	65.12m (S0.05m)	8.29m (1.17m)	9.500 (4.50)	2.85p (2.6p)
Wees Correct (F)	-]-)	95 5m (9).6m)	14.5p [13.0p]	6 6p (6.6p)

Oxford scientists in the money

founded comes to the stock market.

Oxford GlycoSciences was founded 10 years ago by Raymond Dwek and Rai Parekh, in collaboration with Oxford University. The university also stands to make a healthy profit from the flotation.

The group specialises in producing technology used by drug companies to help identify pro-

Two Oxford scientists could teins that cause diseases. The make a paper profit of £500,000 group has recently signed at; when the science group they deal with Incyte to develop databases for the world's higgest pharmaceutical companies. The group is also cartying out clinical studies oo

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Oxford GlycoSciences is looking to raise £25m-£30m which will value the group at between £75m and £100m. It has already raised £30m from equity backers, such as Warburg Pincus and The Wellcome Trust.

two liver cancer treatments."

Takeover of press group is blocked

The Government yesterday blocked the £52m takeover of Home Counties Newspaper Holdings, the regional newspaper publisher, by Johnston Press. Nigel Griffiths, consumer

affairs minister, said he decided oot to give his consent without requiring a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). He said the 500p-per-share

buyout announced in December would give rise to a "significant increase in concentration of the ownership of regional and local newspapers in the counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.

"The proposed transfer would mean that Johnston would be likely to have over half of the market for such newspapers in those counties, and a considerably higher share in some localities. I have competition concerns relating to the consequences for newspaper advertising rates in these areas," he said.

Mr Griffiths said the parties had made it clear in their application that they were not prepared to undergo ao MMC inquiry. "If they wish to make another application which is not dependent on my giving consent without an MMC inquiry, they are free to do so." he added.

Johnston said in December it had acceptances for its offer representing 53.7 per cent of Home Counties' sbare capital

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE :: No. 006157 of 1997

CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER of ELEMENTIS PLC (formerly Harrisons & Crostield pic)

IN THE MATTER of THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 28th January 1998 presente Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for (a) the sanctioning of a Scheme of Arrangement and (b) the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £200,000,000 to no less than £16,906,445

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the ludge of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice. Strand, London WC2 on Mondey 23rd February 1998.

Any Creditor or Shareho of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of the bearing in person or by Counsel for that

purpose. A copy of the said petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charges

for the same. Dated the 13th day of February

STEPHENSON HARWOOD One, St Paul's Churchyard Lond EC4M 8SH Ref: 700/232

iolicitors for the above-named Company

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TAKING STOCK

Allied eschews deals in favour of go-it-alone

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Allied Domecq, in a City pre-sentation to enable a City pre-taken the view that Allied's best 20p gain to 540p (after 560p). 7p to 91.5p on the surprise de-helped along by Merrill Lynch to downplay the possibility of deals with other spirit groups in retail and spirit operations.

favour of a go-it-alone policy. The stock market had expected the drinks group to forge a link, perhaps even indulge in a merger, with another drinks operation following the creation of Diageo through the get together of Grand Metropolitan and Guinness.

Allied's shares fell 21p to 533p; at one time they were off

Since Diageo appeared there has been a succession of stories that Allied, to counter such a powerful opponent, would link with the likes of Seagram of Canada or Pernod Ricard of France.

But in a 110-page circular Allied, in effect, poured out its heart, giving a detailed financial break down which indicated it was doing well and did

Extractive Industries
26 August Flor (4) 8-62

a split and has appeared reluctant to change its shape al-Diageo's marketing muscle.

It is thought to be keen to buy Diageo's Dewar's Scotch whisky brand which is being sold at the insistence of regulators. Diageo, however, has not won unanimous analytical acclaim, with Greig Middleton saying sell.

ket looked rather tired with some prepared to snatch prof- to 800p. its generated in the recent surge. A dull New York opening and the reappearance of interest rate worries exacerbated the subdued mood.

Telecoms remained splendidly aloof. Orange led blue chips, going to yet another

sentation to analysts, appeared course was a straight forward BT added 4.5p to 574p followdemerger, leaving stand alone ing better-than-expected figures but Cable & Wireless gave up But Allied came out against 19p to 623p after BT's Sir Peter Bonfield said "there are no discussion with Cable at the though it could be a casualty of moment". General Cable improved 7.5p to 106.5p oo sug-

gestions it could merge with

Telewest Communications, up

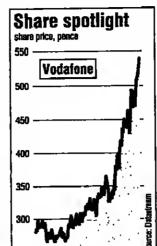
1p at 80.5p. Energy firmed to 775.5p. PacifiCorp, the US utility, has offered 765p but it is widely believed that Texas Utilities could mount a counter bid and, ac-The rest of the stock mar- cording to at least one investment house, is prepared to go

Oils were ruffled by the Shell performance with British Petroleum off 13p at 784p and Shell 12.25p at 409.5p.

Reuters, following the Henderson Crosthwaite investment dinner, rose 11p to 590p and Rank, the leisure group, with-

parture of manager Ruud Gullit: Hay & Roberston. producing Ruud sportswear. lost 11.5p to 158.5p.

Computer shares were a little firmer after Wednesday's shake out. IRA, which started the retreat with a profit warning, recovered 175p to 807.5p



support. Micro Focus rose 60p group, produced a profit to 2,992.5p after announcing a five-for-one share split. Rebus, the computer group split from CE Heath, firmed to

104p on bid talk. Jarvis, the construction group which has been transformed by its rail maintenance expansion, crossed 500p, closing 8p higher at recommendation, improved 505.5p. The Government 1.75p to 19p. Dean Corporacleared its take over of the

Take over bids continue to appear. Spander, a sign distributor, surged 55p to 302.5p after disclosing possible bid talks; printer Watmoughs gained 46.5p to 320p when it hirked. Quebecor Printing, a Canadian group, has mounted a hostile 257p a share offer. Enviromed, a troubled health care group, fell 1.5p to 8p when it emerged a possible bid-

Celsis, the hygiene kits warning, leaving the shares 19p off at 51.5p and becoming the latest scalp of bear raider Simon Cawkwell, aka

Evil Knievel Tadpole Technology gained further 4.5p to 26.5p and Queens Moat Houses, reflecting the Nat West Securities buy tion, a property services group, Pastline maintenance opera- firmed to 13p, on an upbeat

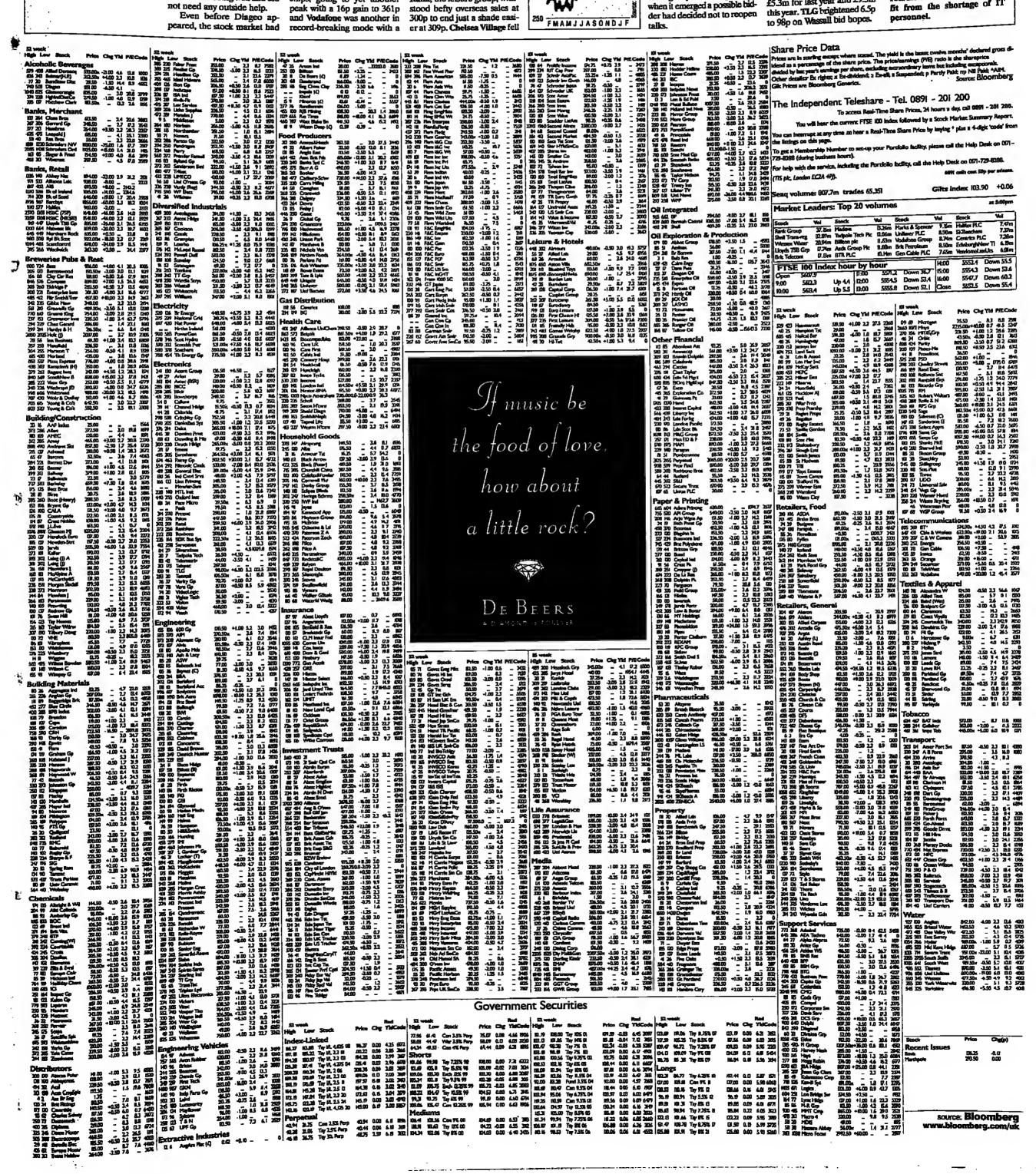
trading statement. Kwik Save, the discount food retailer, shaded 4.5p to 293.5p. There is talk that Dairy Farm of Hong Kong is looking to unload its near 30 per cent interest. Somerfield, little said a possible counter bidder changed at 250p, could be

Waste Recycling improved 18p to 356p, a peak. Stockbroker Redmayne Bentley is upbeat, forecasting profits of £5.3m for last year and £9.3m

Nationwide Security, an electromic security group, arrived on the fringe Ofex market, closing at 220p. Chairman David Nash hopes for rapid expansion, largely through acquisitions. He said although the security market embraced three major players "90 per cent of it is occupied by small, owner-managed concerus". Nationwide consists of AETP Systems, taken over in August, and Regency Fire, just acquired. Talks are going on with a number of security companies and the next deal could emerge in a few months.

Prime People, a recruitment group where PSD has a near 30 per cent interest, rose 2p to 9p on rumoured bid action. It is expected to produce profits of £400,000 for last year, up from £126,000. PSD, firm at 562p. was described as "offering good value" by Kitlik. It is big in IT recruitment and should benefit from the shortage of IT

source: Bloomberg



Travel boom leads British Airways to hire hundreds of extra pilots

By Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

British Airways yesterday announced the biggest pilot recruitment drive in its history. with plans to take on almost 2,500 new flight crew. The news is part of a campaign by BA to take on 15,000 staff over the next years.

The move came as the boom in charter airline traffic helped passenger numbers at airports operator BAA, owner of Heathrow and Gatwick, to soar above 7 million in January for the first time.

The recruitment campaign by BA puts new emphasis on attempts to attract female pilots and trainees to its cadet scheme. BA is planning to expand from 3,300 pilots to 4,000 by 2008, but said it also needed to replace 1,500 pilots who were due to retire in the next ten years. It means that between 200 and 300 new pilots will be taken on each year for the foreseeable future.

The carrier expects a hoge number of applications to join the cadet scheme, though only around one candidate in 100 will be successful. The last time BA advertised the scheme it received 30,000 replies, Each cadet is sponsored through an 18-month training programme, costing BA £100,000.

In a senarate development, a senior BA official expressed confidence that the alliance



Flying high: John Stent, MD of Stansted Airport, where passenger numbers rose by 17.1% Photograph: Eye Catchers Press

with American Airlines would a limit to how many take-off win EU regulatory clearance, saving the two sides had come closer to an agreement. "The gap is narrowing, yes, but it still has got some way to go." said Christopher Allen, head of competition and industry affairs. following reports the European Commission said it will delay its

ruling until at least March. He stressed that there was and landing slots the two carriers could afford to surrender in return for Commission approval of the deal.

Meanwhile, BAA, the airports operator, brushed off concerns about the slowdown in growth elsewhere in the economy, with figures showing it handled 7.1 million passengers last month, a rise of 6.9 per

cent on the same period in 1997. BAA shares jumped by 13p on the better than expected figures, to 532p.

The higgest surge was in European charter traffic, which grew by t4.4 per cent, while North Atlantic traffic rose by 11.4 per cent. The figures also revealed an unexpected recovery in passenger numbers travelling to Asia, despite the

economic crisis in the region. Stansted Airport showed the biggest surge in numbers last month, as more discount

operators offered services. Passengers soared by 17.1 per cent to 335,744, on the back of a 27 per cent increase in European scheduled traffic. BA is using Stansted as the headquarters for its new hudget "turn-upand-go" airline, called Go.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



The Celebrated Group, the AIM-quoted company which operates the fledgling Chilli's Mexican restaurant chain, has undergone a boardroom shake-up since buying out the American founders of the brand, Brinker's, last November.

Yesterday H Michael Bush, 43, an American who is currently non-executive president of the Domino Pizza Group, took over the role of chief executive of Celebrated from Geoffrey Tucker, who in turn becomes chairman. Bob Littledale was acting as chairman of Celebrated while the acquisition from Brinker's was being negotiated, and he remains on the board as a non-exec.

Mr Bush also takes over the financial director role from Mrs Pat Moody, who resigns from the Board, A new financial director will be hired in due course, according to the company.

Celebrated currently has two Chilli's restaurants, in Cambridge and Canary Wharf, London, and has just started on a new branch in Basildon, Essex. It plans to roll out the restaurant chain in the South-east and the rest of the country. The Directors were given an added incentive to make the idea work vesterday by granting themselves a shipload of options. Mr Bush for instance, has been granted 1 million shares at 11p, and a further 1.2m at 13.5p.

Celebrated's shares rose 0.75p to 10.75p yesterday. Pass the tequila.

Loss adjustors Pycraft & Arnold have told me of an appalling case of a pub regular being put off his favourite drink - Guinness - by accidentally swallowing a fly along with the black stuff. According to the firm, the man, who was drinking in a pub in Dublin, went on to finish the pint, but later that evening became "nauseous".

Alan Thomas, manager of Pycroft & Arnold's Bristol office, says: "The customer claimed that from then on he couldn't face a pint of Guinness. The only beer he could down was Bud-

weiser - 30p a pint dearer in his local. "He sued the licensee on the grounds that, as he drank on average eight pints a session, the fly episode was costing him an extra £2.40 a day - seven days a week. His claim, therefore, was for his annual additional hill of £806.40 - to be paid each year for the rest of his life." Hmm. Sounds better than working. Anyway, the litigious barfly lost his case. Mr Thomas concludes: "The court probably felt that, af-

ter downing eight pints, he didn't have a leg to stand on." Declarations of the death of marriage as an institution are a mite premature, if the findings

of an Abbey National survey on people planning to get spliced are anything to go by. More than 90 per cent of those surveyed by the bank said they were planning to spend up to £15,000 on their wedding, with an average

figure of £6,800. And while Valentine's Day hoves into view, fewer than a quarter of the 4,000 surveyed said that they were planning to share "all" their

One dramatic development is for modern couples to put their own hands in their pockets to finance the Big Day. Only 15 years ago, more than two-thirds of weddings were being paid for in full by the bride's parents.

In this survey 75 per cent of brides said they and their fiancee would be using their own savings, with 11 per cent and 10 per cent mentioning personal loans and credit cards. respectively, as other possible payment methods. As a further sign of the times, 7 per cent said they would pay for the wedding using a building society windfall.

Ken Livingstone MP was at it again at a City property awards dinner on Wednesday night. when he told 498 top property people that if he were elected Lord Mayor of London, " I would put up your taxes, hut you can afford it."

The plutocrats loved it. Red Ken also threatened to take back London's County Hall: Would you keep an asset - and then sell, just as the market reached the bottom, for millions less than it had been worth at the top?"

The gathered wheeler dealers murmured in agreement. Later Ken had to excuse an early exit to the House of Commons, to vote in a "minor rebellion" over newspaper charges.

"With this three-line whip, I have to be there so they can see I have abstained," he quipped.

Are you about to fly off to New York on business? Pop over to Brussels to do a spot of lobbying? Or perhaps you've just returned from the annual ski-fest in Davos?

Chances are that at least once in a while it will have flickered through your mind, as the airplane engines rev, "What if the plane crashes? What if this is the one?"

Well, Company Barelaycard reckon that almost one in ten of business travellers have a fear of flying. Some 12 per cent of this group admit such fears have prevented them from travelling on business.

The Barclaycard study also showed that 16 per cent of female respondents admitted to a fear of flying, against only 7 per cent of men. On the other hand, over a quarter of males admitted that a fear of flying had once stopped them from travelling on business, against only 6 per cent of the females.

Pah, what nonsense. Hang on a minute, is the wing supposed to be vibrating like that ...

Report reveals growing divergence in EU

By Katherine Butler Brussels

Europe's captains of industry yesterday warned of serious economic divergence in the EU just months before the launch of European economic and monetary union.

In a damning report, the European employers federation UNICE blamed obstacles to hiring and firing, bloated pub-

Foreign Exchange Rates

Other Spot Rates

3.3266 2.8022 12.296 302.85 6.1383 2.7063 8.1263 250.71 13.172 2.3663

ty of labour markets for dragging down Europe's global competitiveness. Britain, Ireland and The Netherlands are at the competitive edge because they - unlike Germany, France and most other EU economies - have restructured to meet the challenges of the global mar-

ketplace, the report claimed. The UNICE report highlighted the sharp divergence across Europe which could un-

Australia Belgium Canada ECU France German Italy Japan Manda Spain Sweder Stand UK

9,6131 1,481 1,272 37,45 1,436

Online Spot 0.504 0.504 0.504 1.4801 1.2716 37.325 1.4943 1.0917 5.4968 1.6968 1.6968 1.6968 1.6968 1.7396 1.7396 1.3967 1.4960 1.3963 1.4963 1.5063

1 month 06/12 14304 127/6 37/27/5 68/48 13/27/5 68/48 13/27/5 68/48 13/27/5 68/48 13/27/5 13/27/5 13/27/5 13/27/5 13/27/5 14/27/5

Industry in Germany and Belgium for example is hurdened by the highest labour costs in the world - more than \$30 (£18) an hour - compared to around \$15 an hour in Britain or Ireland. Social security payments, payroll taxes, sick leave and other benefits account for 93 per cent of wage costs in manufacturing in France but only 40 per cent in

Britain and Ireland.

Money Market Rates

485 3.74 502 438 3.56 3.76 5.25 0.59 3.75 4.20 4.71 141 7.45 4.98

Interest Rates

and Portugal have an average ratio of taxes and social security contributions below the OECD average of 38 per cent of GDP. Total taxes and social security charges for an average worker amount to 57 per cent of total labour costs in the EU compared to 37 per cent in the US and 33 per cent in Japan. An average industrial worker in Belgium, where the marginal tax wedge is highest, has to work until the end

275%

100% 300%

off taxes and social charges whereas a Japanese worker reaches a "tax free day" by April. UNICE also dismisses the "fallacy" that reduced working

hours can trim unemployment by highlighting the German case: unemployment has reached its highest levels since before the war but German workers have the lowest annual working hours in Europe. British workers have the

Liffe Financial Futures

Est floor volume
59261
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22444
36252
12635
12775
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3277
10493 Long Dik German Bund US Long Bond Italian Bond Japan Gort Bd 3 Mth Starling 12428 10735 11836 12311 9052 9634 9634 9637 9617 9617 96170 96270 96374 96374 96-124 123423 13988 136785 383604 359136 136712 189379 67120 51874 8869 6729 81296 FTSE 100 Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option Call Put 178 126 148 149 120 171 97 198 Apr Ca0 Put 238 173 207 193 177 214 154 241 Start Crude(\$/barrel] Gee oil(\$/toure)
IPE Lost* Chig Yol IPE Close Chig
May 11.57 0.04 7355 Feb 12675 2.50
Apr 1425 0.04 3440 May 12550 2.50
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French Holly stakes Champion claim

Racing

By Greg Wood

GOOD looks and talent do not always go haod in hand, but nal two flights, French Holly the trainer said. "The ground there was a growing belief last night that French Holly, one of the finest physical specimens in training, has the racing ability to match his magnificeol frame.

Ferdy Murphy's hurdler is still in his novice season, yet his short while later, French Holvictory at Wincanton yesterday was sufficiently impressive to see his Champioo Hurdle odds cul to 16-1 from 20-1 by Corals.

French Holly's fourth success from as many outings this season was hardly a surprise, yet the

term future. Many big borses are one-paced gallopers, but when Better Offer, a useful handicapper on the Flat, came needed little encouragement to quicken clear.

The only worry, in fact, came when Andrew Thornton, his rushed into a decision about his jockey, dismounted as soon as race at the Festival, and basically they had crossed the line, but a it will depend on the ground. ly received a clean bill of health.

"There's no problems whatphy reported. "The vet's had a look at him and he's perfect. He just seemed to rap the last hur-

As for the race itself, Murimpressive, we couldn't have was fast enough, but he handled it all right, and we're well chuffed with him. We won't be

"In the year that Collier Bay won the Champion Hurdle, it was good to firm on the soever, he's fine," Ferdy Mur- Monday, and then by Tuesday afternoon it was soft, so we'll wait until nearer the time. Soft ground would inconvenience dle and jarred himself a hit, so others in the Champion, but it manner of it promised much for Andrew dismounted when he will be up to Kieran Flood, the gelding's owner l."

lighted. "He was very experience, but the Murphy was not unduly worried. "I ride him all the time and he jumps like a buck at home," he said.

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Pet Express (Southwell 3.40) NB: Course Fishing (Southwell 3.10)

"He's just inclined to kick one out in his races."

The obvious alternative for French Holly at the Festival would be the Royal & SunAlliance Novice Hurdle, but in an open year, the temptation to run in the Champion could prove. difficult to resist. If and when

phy was understandably de- Holly's hurdling betrayed his in- be French Holly's target, any 16-1 remaining would be well worth an interest.

Certainly, it would offer more value than the 7-2 now available against Istahraq, even allowing for the fact that Aidan O'Brien, his trainer, yesterday insisted that rumours about his hurdler's well-being were unfounded.

Istabraq has been beaten just once in 10 races over hurdles, but his success at last year's Festival came over two miles and five furlongs, and there must be significant doubt over his ability to beat the best hurdlers at the minimum trip.

There were whispers from Ireland too yesterday that runner in the Long Stanton

HYPERION

2.00 Decoupage 2.30 Pepitist (nb) 3.00 Tanseed 3.30 Lord Of The West 4.00 Gallant Taffy 4.30 James The First 5.00 Bora Bora

GOING: Chases - Good to Soft (Soft in places); Hurdles - Good.

@Left-hand, undutating course; run-in 325ycts.
@Course is 4m SE of Whethern seer junction of A525 and B5089.
Bus service from Whethern station. ADMISSTON: Paddock £9;

Bus service from Whenham sustion. ADMISSION: Reddock is Course 14 (under-16s free at enclosures) CAR PARKE Free, eLEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 28-85 (808%), D Nicholson 14-(20%), G Richards 14-78 (173%), N Twiston-Device 10-64 (156%) eLEADING JOCKEYS: N Williamson 11-40 (273%), C Liewell 10-66 (178%), W Marrishon 8-50 (1996), T Eley 9-23 (87%) eFAVOLIRITES: 167-435 (58.4%) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.00 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

2.30 EDWARD SYMMONS NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 1f 110yds

3.00 BERMANS HANDICAP HURDLE

(CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 1f

Set 7th, MRDry Brook Set Gib. BETTING: 5-2 Corel Intend, 9-2 Meed Court, 5-1 Controlline, 6-1 Tales, 7-1 River Way, 10-1 Ericology, 12-1 Exphanic, Tanseeg, Chill Boom, Milling Brook, 14-1 Eben Al Habesb

3.30 OLD HALL ESTATES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3m 6f

20-SN TEXAN BABY (BSL) (17) N Twiston-Davies 6 10 6. C Livestyn 265-U PARAHANDY (6) J Maline 8 100. L Vyer 295-Y PINK GIN (21) M Harmond 11 10 6 Jim C Bonner (3) 24305 PINS BUNNER (27) M Harmond 10 10 0 B Harding

HYPERION 1.40 Dust 2.10 Moon Gorga 2.40 Greenspan 3.10 All On 3.40 Julies Jewel 4.10 Sense Of

STALLO: INSEC.

IRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

OFbresand surface; left-hand sharp, oval course.

OCourse is 3m SE of town and 5m W of Newark. Rollecton Junction adjoins course. ADMISSION: CLUE E12; Tatteresiis E5 (CAP members of course's Dismond Club E4, accompanied under-16s free). Prices hald und May 1997. CAR PARK: Free

tree, Prices had until May 1997. CAR PARIC: Free

«LEADING TRAINCES» Michinston 45-277 (207%), J.L. Byre 35-343

(MA%), D. Chapman 32-365 (25%), R. Hollinshand 31-361 (8,6%)

«LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Charmock 31-320 (8,7%), Dean McKeown 27-304 (8,9%), A. Culhane 19-271 (9%), G. Carter 18-225 (9%),

«FAVOURITIES: 511-1467 (3,48%),

BLINKERED PIRST TIME: Belactieva (visored) (2,50) Fayor (2,10),

Selberry (2,40), Supermodel (visored) (3,10).

1.40 GREAT BEAR HANDICAP (CLASS F) (Div I) £3,000 added 1m

0-001 XBNOCHS BOY (a) (C0) M Riven 9 10 6 6th P McCabe (8) 7 00-05 JOHANE THE JOKER (4) (C0) J Legh 7 9 13 Dean McKenn 3 B 200-0 XDMASTA (14) Ms G Rees 4 9 11 P Riobetts (8) 9 501-01 SUST (11) (C0) Lord Hursingdon 4 9 4 (5th) W Ryan 2 6944: BOLD RATIN (142) (7) W Musson 5 9 0 D R McCabe 4 5000 GILLING DANCER (J109) (D) P Caber 5 8 5 D R McCabe 4 30000 GILLING DANCER (J109) (D) P Caber 5 8 5 C R McCabe 4 30000 GILLING DANCER (J109) (D) P Caber 5 8 5 C R McCabe 4 30000 GILLING DANCER (J109) (D) P Caber 5 8 5 C R M CABER 5 8 C R M CABER 5 8 5 C R M CABER 5 8 C

346644 AWESCME VENTURE (7) (CD) M Crapmen 8 8 2.F Norton S

Southwell (AW)

Priority 4,40 Batsman

for the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury tomorrow, had suffered a setback, but here too. there were firm denials from his yard, while the British bookies saw no reason to adjust his odds. The sponsors reported a Trophy plunge on Tidjani, owned by J P McManus, for the Trophy and cut his price from 25-1 to 14-1. Coral trimmed Commanche

from 6-1 to 5-1. A trainer with rather less to celebrate at Huntingdon yesterday was Neville Callaghan, who was fined £300 for "violent and improper conduct" after a verbal attack on the starter, Sean McDonald. Callaghan's

Court, the second-favourite.

At times yesterday, French Murphy confirms that this will Graphic Equaliser, favourite Handicap Hurdle, Desert Mountain, was withdrawn at the start on veterinary advice, apparently after being kicked by another runoer, a decision which did oot please the trainer of the 6-4 favourite.

"The vet advised the starter that in his opinion, the horse should not run," Geoffrey Foster, the stewards' secretary said. "The starter is obliged to take. the vet's advice and he ordered the horse to be withdrawn. On returning to the enclosures, the starter received verbal abuse from Callaghan." The trainer left the course without commeot.

■ Tomorrow's race meeting at Ayr hinges on an 8am inspection today following heavy rain.

4.00 DENBIGH NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 53,500 added 2m 4f

4.30 GILBERT COTTON MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

added 2m 4f 110yds

1 /B022 ANDERMATT (272) (CD) (BP) J Martin 11 27.

2 444-1 JAMES THE FRIST (P18) (C) E W Tuer 10 27 Alle G Tuer (7) 3 - 2MS6 (RNG OF SHADOWS (171) (CD) Mins C Curden 11 27 - Mr 2 Prior (7) 4 22P4 LOPD RELIC (28th) (D) 8 Brookster 12 27 - Min R Food (5) 61P50 MACAMORE STAR (1025) Mins S Bookst 12 27 - Min R Food (5) 61P50 MACAMORE STAR (1025) Mins S Bookst 12 27 - Min R Food (5) 61P50 Mins S SATMORE (38th) (2) P Morris 2 27 - Min Winheright (7) 8 2203 - SATMORE (38th) (C) P Morris 2 27 - Min C J B Barbon (7) 8 5UPPY CARTOON (P712) S Kelly 11 20 - Min M Morrood (7) 9 P4022 FELLO (1926) J Teytr 19 20 - Min M Morrood (7) 9 P4022 FELLO (1926) J Teytr 19 20 - Min M Morrood (7) 19 5949; PINCH'S GERI (1931) Min S S Store 10 20 - Min M Makeloy (5) 11 520P- GO AGAIN (P379) Min T L Global T 20 - Min P Contails (7) 10 3/21/2 PRINCEPLE MUSIC (P342) (D) Mins K Merks 10 20 - Min A Philippe (7) 10 3/21/2 PRINCEPLE MUSIC (P342) (D) Mins K Merks 10 20 - Min A Philippe (7)

10 3/212- Premier L. Br. A Printers (/)
14 2P532- SAAH (P299 (D) J Selectels 9 12 0 Latter 8 Selectels (7)
15 -25120 SPY'S DELIGHT (272) (C) H. N. W. Reynter 12 12 0 Lik H Rayner (7)

- 15 declared BETTRIC: 5-2 James The First, 3-1 Andersett, 4-1 Lord Relic, 6-1 Salio

Jrn. 10-1 Principle Masic, Hotsebber, 12-1 Saymore, Floritis Gen. 14-1 Fallon, Spy's Deligist, 16-1 Santa, 25-1 others

5.00 TBR CONSTRUCTION INTERMEDIATE

added fillies & mares 2m 1f

DAWN'S DELLA M Malineaux S 11 0

BEYE ME SPACE T FOSIN 6 11 0

LEGAL ROMANCE J Tuck 5 11 0

LISCANNOR BAY J Mulins S 11 0

MISS LAMBREN D McCain 5 11 0.

Injury forces Becker to withdraw

Tennis

BORIS BECKER, the former Wimhledoo champion, was forced to withdraw from the Dubai Open for the second successive year yesterday after aggravating a stomach iojury suffered last week in Croatia.

The sixth seed, Felix Mantilla, advanced to the quarterfinals with a walkover and Becker also withdrew from the doubles, where he has been partnering Henman

Becker felt the injury in Wednesday's doubles victory over the Spaniards, Alex Corretja and Javier Sanchez, and the abdominal strain failed to respond to heal treatment and

The defending champion Thomas Muster paid the price for a long break at the eod of last season when he was beaten 7-6, 6-4 by the emerging German, Nicolas Kiefer.

Kiefer was until recently a memher of Becker's squad of promising young players, before striking out on his own with the German's old coach,

Boh Brett. Andre Agassi, the former world No 1, showed that he is still a force to be reckoned with after taking just 41 minutes to beat Gustavo Kuerteo, the Freoch Open champion, 6-3, 6-1 in the second round of the Sybase Open in San Jose yesterday.

Lions appeal over brawl ban

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

TWO of the four amateur sides left in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup face their moment of truth tonight, with Featherstone Lions anxious to live down their unwanted wild reputatioo.

The Lions are to have an appeal heard oo Mooday against a five-year ban from all Cup competitions, imposed after a brawl with Siddall at the eod of

the recent Yorkshire Cup Final. Their joint coach, Simon Tuffs, said that the club's recent notoriety was "unfortunate and unfair" and that the players had tried to concentrate on tonight's tie against Hull KR.

The Lioos had Rovers watched in their opening First Division fixture last week and have identified the Papua New Guinean stand-off, Stanley Gene, as the principal threat.

Meanwhile, the Cumhrian side. Egremont, take on their professional neighbours, Workington Town, at Whitehaven tonight.

The chairman of Super League, Chris Caisley, and the acting chief executive of the Rugby League, Neil Tunnicliffe, have described their meeting vesterday to discuss potential ar-

eas of disagreement as "fruitful". Castleford are breathing more easily over their finances after clinching a sponsorship with Clear Sport Nasal Strips.

Eagles try to scale Towers

Basketball

By Richard Taylor

NEWCASTLE EAGLES attempt to overturn an 18-point deficit in tonight's Uni-ball League Trophy semi-final second leg against Londoo Towers. without their 6ft 6in England international Peter Scantlebury.

Scantlebury, England's most capped international, turned his ankle during practice and may also miss the national team's European Championship semi-final round games in Belarus on 25 February and against Israel in Manchester on the 28th.

Newcastle's coach, Craig Lynch, said: "Peter has ligament damage but we're not sure how serious yet. As for the England games, we'll have to see what the physio says and how Peter responds to treatment."

The Eagles 92-74 defeat in last week's first leg eoded a 13-game unbeaten run. Lynch admits his team may have been too concerned to protect their record rather than restrict Towers' first leg lead.

"We tried to win the game rather than play smart and threw the ball away too many times," he said. "Tonight we have to be positive. The first half is very important in cutting back their lead so we can put pressure on in the second period."

McGrath argues Top Cees 'could have and should have won'

THE High Court jury hearing ley QC, said it was "vital" that at Newmarket three weeks bethe libel action by trainer Lynda Ramsden, her husband Jack and champion jockey Kieren Falion's over an allegation of cheating was told yesterday that it would he a sad day if The Sport-

ing Life could not comment on what it considered a "scandal". Opening the newspaper's defence in London, Richard Hart-

Newbury

1.50 Zafarabad 2.20 STOMPIN (nap)

2.50 Seek the Faith

3.20 The Jogger

racing should be conducted honestly. The Ramsdens, together with Fallon, are suing over an editorial in the Life in May 1995, the day after their horse Top Cees won the Chester Cup.

The article said the trio conspired to deceive the racing public by deliberately not trying lo win the Swaffham Handicap

3.50 Lets Be Frank 4.20 Kedga Anchor Man 4.50 Elburg

HYPERION

GOING: Good.

Clatit-hand course with stiff fences.

Course is SE of town near A34. Reil station (service from London, Paddington) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members £14 £17 or £25; Tattersals £8 £10 or £12; Silver Ring £4 or £3 (CAPs half price) Accompaned if year-olds or under tree all enclosures. CAR PARIX: free; Picnic area £9 per car plus £4 per person or £5 per car plus £5 per person eLEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 21-98 (214/%). O Sherwood £5-9 (205%), N Henderson 14-68 (E9%), M Pipe 13-71 (193%), Mrs. J Pimen 10-52 (192%), P Hobbs 10-76 (192%), M-LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dusmoody 19-98 (198%), M A Pitzgerald £2-th (108%), W Maraton 8-53 (151%), N Williamson 8-84 (12.5%), A P McCoy 8-55 (12.2%), G Bradley 5-68 (7.4%).

GFAVOURTIES: 147 with from 381 races (40.7%).

BLARKERED FIRST TIME: The HTPenry Marvel (3.20).

1.50 STROUG GREEN HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,273

2.20 ALDERMASTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,708

2.50 HAMPSHIRE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) 27,000 added

2m 1f Penalty Value £4,858

S97 Mater Oddy in til 4 D Fortt (3) ft-4 tev (I Kingl 7 mm. FORMI GUIDE

R OBINS PRIDE is 13th worse off than when a forhunde winner from Moratock at Wincarton on Boxing Day, it seems most unlikely that he can confirm the form on those terms, yet these two met again at Kempton last month and Moratock, no less than 18th better in compared to Wincartion, made heavy weather of beating Robin's Pride just over a length. The againg Thumbs Up, running his best race of the season, was under four lengths behind Moratock and meets the first two on much better terms, while Utbosefer winner Random Assault blundered his chance away three out. He was being riction along at the time and, although Thumbs Up has the best of the weights, heli not getting any younger. Trying to chase Kardashor did for Moratock at Kempton in his next race and mistakes at the fifth last and next knocked him right back. The grey has every chance mistakes at the fifth last and next knocked him right back. The grey has every chance with a clear round, yet if his earlier form there (soft as opposed to good ground today) is to be believed Robin's Pride is weighted to turn the tables. The one difficult to assess is Holly's Pride, twice a winner over 'ences in Februal.

Selection: ROBINS PRIDE

3.20 CHARLES HIGGINS MEMORIAL FOXHUNTERS' CUP HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 4f

fore. Publishers MGN deny libel.

Mr Hartley said the best evidence would be if he could produce someone who could say they overheard someone telling Mr Fallon not to win at Newmarket. "But we do not have that evidence. We will invite you to draw the inference that such instruction was given."

Jim McGrath, a Channel 4 presenter, was called as an expert witness by the Life. He told Mr Justice Morland that Top Cees "could have and should have won" at Newmarket Mc-Grath said: "My opinion of the riding was that the tactics were designed not to obtain the best possible position." The case continues today.

Being a mare and a non-winner under Rutes, QUIET CONFIDENCE gets all the allowances and can make the most of all the weight she gets from The Jogger and Vhal Song. The hom-running Quiet Confidence carried on hom where she had left off in 1986 by meking an impressive start in a point-to-point test year. She was never curte able to match that form in hunter chases, doing best when second to Poors Wood at Ascot in March, but Dominic Alens-Hankey taking over from a novice rider should make all the difference and the misrs had a rices pipe-operar between the flags last morth. The Jogger comes arm a top year and the 13-year-old keeps his form well. He had Poors Wood way back in third when winning a hunter chase at Kempton last February and has already run well in a hot point-to-point this season. The consistent Vall Song won at the Chetan-ham hunter meeting test season and is the most lively alternative unless former handisopper Real Progress finds life easier in hunter chases.

Selection: CUET CON-FDENCE Seing a mare and a non-winner under Rules, QUIET CONFIDENCE cets all the allow

3.50 EASTLEIGH HANOICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £4,945

Minimum weight: 10st. True hendioop weight: Vazzen Set 12b.
BETTING: 2-1 Stormytelmether, 100-30 Late Be Frack, 5-1 Vierner, 6-1 Courterfi, 8-1 Binst Free
Barrolo, 14-1 Muliigen
1997: Copper Boy 5 10 3 B Powell 11-4 for (FI Bactler) 7 rain

1997: Copper Boy 8: 10.3.8 Powell 11-4 lay (R Bucder) 7 ran PORM GUIDE.

Blasst Freeze is neturning from an indifferent spel of nonce chasing, while neither Courbarill nor Garrolio come into this in anywhere near their best form, though none of the three would be a shock winner - and Garrolio is perhaps the pick. Classry chaser Mutiliages was well outpeased in the closing stages when put back over hurdles at Wetherlyon Saturday. He faces another tough task and this is more filely out in the ground making it a less of stamina that creatied Saturday-hardles were two miles here on his responsance. He modyner run in a valuable hundlesp at Sandown (sume try) soon after probably came a bit too soon and is best forgotten. He recurs to the trip over which he won a good race at Chelsenham in April and will take all the besting. Early attempts a novice chasing for Lates 60 Farsk have been put on hold and the serven-year-oid was returned to hundling with a wengeance. Heving not up to blanc Dana Pelint in the mind at at nowce creating for Ling by Frank have been but of notice and the seven-year-old reas-returned to hurding with a verigeance. Heaving got up to pip Drain Point in the mud at Market Rasen on Boxing Day, he was equally game in beeing the same horse at Dor-caster 13 days ago. He has the right attitude for a tough course like this. Vitaman didn't get home in the soft over three miles at Ascot. This better ground and shorter distance should more to his fiking.

4.20 FEBRUARY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,288

1 2-102 INFAMOUS (USA) (85) (0) (Ass Butters Northerth R O'Sulven 5 til 11 ... R Derwoodly
1 1107 GUTTERBUSE (13) (0) (SCD Stells Laft P Evens 6 11 10 ... A P McCoy V
2 0-20-P RIVER DAVIN (45) (Uberts Bloodbook) C Brooks 6 11 5 ... S McNett
4 0-00 GO BRITANNA (22) (Fersite Wisse Nerrogeneral Limited) F Jordan S 17 3 ... D Byrns
5 /F-26 KEDGE ANCHOR MAN (14) (EF) (Arbitrary M Green) A Foster 7 11 0 ... A Thornton
5 23 KEN RESK (FR) (46) (Jm Wissden) M Poe 6 10 13 ... JE Evens 8
7 3POS1 DAN DE MAN (14) (D) (Dovid J Poeter Partnershyl Mas L Siddel 7 10 7 ... M Foster
6 0P/PP - SOUGROVE MAN (277) (D) (Lord Loyd-Webber) J Cld 8 10 7 ... M A Facquerid
8 002 PREMERE GENERATION (23) (Ms W A Oran) D Arbitrats 5 10 7 ... G Bredley
10 32280 SLEMA CREEK (29) (D) (SF) Libra Joseph P Hobbs 4 10 5 ... L Harvey
11 5FRO KAITE'S JOKER (38) (J Russell) O Orbeit 2 10 0 ... H Offwar (7)

Manimum weight: 10st True handloop weight: Nates Joker 9s 7a.

Met TITING: 3-1 Dan De Man, 9-2 Gotzeridge, 13-2 Kadge Anchor Man, 7-1 Go Britannia, 6-1 Informous, Ken Risk, 10-1 Premier Generation, River Deven, 14-1 Boxgrove Man, 16-1 Storm Creek, 25-1 Katler's Stor

1997 Squre Sik 8 11 2 P Carberry 11-8 (A Turnell) 8 ran
FORM GUIDE
HURRICANE LAMP, a smart hurder lest eason, is getting it together over tences and
may eventually prove every bit as good as his half-brother, Martin's Lemp. Hurricane Lamp
was pitched in at the deep end for his cheeing debut and confirmed the promise of that
with a cishwining defeat of subsequent winner Storm Damage at Ludlow, where Cititon
Beast (after reportedly putting his fact in a hole six out) and limitimagis (two out when
third and weakening) both unseated their riders. While that pair have since shown they
are capable of winning over fences, Hurricane Lamp improved further by splitting Wade
Read and Queen Of Spades in a hot race at Ascot and is beginning to look useful. Storapin
had a good start over hurdes against Gale Toi at Ludlow before Christmas and stopped
up on that at Kempton, where he just missed out on second to the consistent Kadashot.
There was cut in the ground then and his best hurdes form has been on a sound surface. He should be good for place money. Pennose Lad still held a slight lead when coming down at the second leat in the race won by Potter's Gale at Hurtingdon 15 days ago
on his chasing debut. That was a promising start.

Selection: HURRICANE LAMP 25-1 Katler's Star 1897: Rengaliei O 11 10 R Durwoody 2-1 fav (C Marri) 6 run

FORM GILIDE

Gutterldge has been well handled to wan five of his last six starts and was very game in beating Garflax in a competitive handleap at Cholamham to delys ago. The eight-year-old has come to harself late in its and going up another 80 may not stop han going close again DAN DE NAN has been raised 12b for his recent Concessier win, though at least that success showed that his previous run in the mud at Watherby whan't his at least that success showed that his previous run in the mud at Westerby whart has true form and this improving sort may still be alread of the handicapper. Inflameus won early-season novice events at Hereford and Worcester before being found out by his penalties. He obsern't have it particularly easy with top weight. Kedge Anchor Man falled to come up to expectations at Folkestors less time, while Ken Flask hasn't selly fulfied the potential shown when winning at Exeter first time. One with more scope, though hard-ly thrown in at the weights for his first handicap, is fast stoyer Go Britannia. He has shaped to better than his three runs give him credit for and is one to feep on the right side of when faced with a stiffer test of starring.

Selection: DAN DE MAN 4.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,500

added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £4,130

FORM GUIDE

Although 14lb worse in compared to when he finished behindEau De Cologne at Windsor in November, CLAIRESWAN went on to win over this trip at Catterick. Not only was he way up in class at Warwick next time, he had an impossible task from 25b out of the handicap yet still gave a good account bettind Splendid Thyrie. He is on a more suitable mark here. Native Field, where of claimers from Lanadowne at Haydock and at Townester, where Lanadowne was fourth, was only four lengths behind Catesowan at Warwick. It depends on what fine of form is taken as to whether Native Field can confirm the form with Lanadowne, but seems held by Catesowan.

Selection: CLAIRESWAN.

Results

HUNTINGDON HUN I INGLON

1.50: T. TOTALLY YOURS (A P McCoy)

1.50: T. Proel State 100-30: 3. Lucy Tulky

20-1 T7 ren. 4.6 (M Ppe. Wellington). Tota:

52.40: \$130, \$250, \$260, DF: £550, CSF. 240: That CRUD NP: Saisong. 240: That CRUD NP: Saisong. 240: 1. STAR TRAVELLER (S Wyrne) 4-1; 2 Bay Lough (2-1, 3. Hz The Fan 33-1 13 rae. 1/8 tay Organ Record (4th) 7. 21. (Capt T Forster, Downton). Tate: \$500; £160, £235; £430 DF: £2100 CSF: £4516. Tricast:

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS NEWBURY 972 982 BANGOR SOUTHWELL 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

P1308.98. Tho: Not won; \$309.16 carried forward to Newbury 4.50 loday. NP: Javelin Cool, Spring Double.

2.50: 1. FRIENCH HOLLY (A Thornton).

8-13 far; 2. Better Offer 5-1; 3. Mr. Mardarham.

8-24 ran. 2. 14. (F. Murpin; Micharham). Tota: \$2.4 ran. 2. 14. (F. Murpin; Micharham). Tota: \$2.50. DF: \$2.50. CSF: \$2.50. NP: Muskinii.

8-16 My Side.

3.20: 1. NOCATCHIMI (A S. Smith) 14-1;

2. Tellichenry 7-2; 3. Glendoe 11-4. 7 ran.

2-1 far Woodbridge (6th). 11/3, 2 (K. Morgan, Melton Mowbray). Tota: \$15.70; \$23.0, \$25.0. DP: \$25.00. CSF: \$6144.

3.50: 1. ERINEST WILLIAM (R. Johnson).

7-2 it far; 2. Emperor Buck 39-1; 3. Cambo 8-1. 19 ran. 7-2 it far Beaumont, 7. 11/4.

(G. Flubbard, Woodbridge). Tota: \$42.0; \$170. E330, \$230. DF; \$718.80. CSF: \$22.81.

17/cast; 2. Viral Winness 14-1; 3. Ardbrennan.

4-1. 10 ran. 6. 1. (Mrs Caroline Balley, Hotd-anly). Tota: \$24.81. Title: \$24.80; \$1.20. E770, \$23.90. DF; \$26.00. CSF: \$24.81. Title: \$17.70. NF; \$2.00. DF; \$2.00. CSF: \$24.81. Title: \$17.70. NF; \$2.00. DF; \$1.80. CSF: \$24.81. Title: \$17.70. NF; \$2.00. DF; \$1.00. CSF: \$24.81. Title: \$17.70. NF; \$2.00. DF; \$1.00. CSF: \$24.81. Title: \$1.70. NF; \$2.00. DF; \$1.00. CSF: \$24.81. NF; \$1.00. DF; to Newbury today. Placepot: £1530. Quadpot: £3110. Place 5: £248.59. Place 5: £184.03.

WINCANTON

1.40: 1. OH DONNA (MA Fitzpereld) 2-1 fee; 2. OI Mother 11-2; 3. Up The Staney 11-4. 18 ran. 24. 5. (N Hernderson Lambourn). Tota: £120; £130, £270, £100 DP: £560. CSF: £180. Tito: £340. 2.10; 1. STEEL MOSS (B Fenton) 10-1; 2. Milhersford 11-8 fay; 3. Immonth 14-1 or ran. 1, 22 (C Barved, Therton). Pote: £150; £120 E-150. CSF: £244. 2.40; 1. Mill-DDY MAJD (MA Fizzpereld) 7-2; 2. Ever Blaesed 5-4 fav; 3. Barvarder 33-1, 7 ran. 5; 10. (N Hernderson, Lambourn). Tota: £320; £150. CSF: £120; 3.10; 1. JIBBER THE KUBBER (D Lashy) 17-4; 2. Ground Natt 4-1; 3. Linton Rocks 2-1 fav, 8 ran. 274, 12. (Mrs. J Pitman, Uoper Lambourn). Tota: £320; £230, £150. DF: £300. CSF: £154. 3.40; 1. KHALIDI (Spotrie Machel) 12-1; 2. Easy Lietenlag 11-2, 3. Florid 11-2, 7 ran. 13-8 fav Bailadur, Mt, 274. (D Gendelfa, Warntage). Tota: £1500; £330, £270. DF: £4350. CSF: £156. 4.10; 1. THE BOUNDER (Mr. J Tizzard) 2-5 fav; 2. Ferdias 3-4; 3. Perels Brother 20-1, 3 ran. 274, dist. (C Tezzard, Sherborne). Tota: £140. DF: £100. CSF: £155. 4.40; 1. KMSFORD ROSE (C Maude) 2-1 fav; 2. Garra Rimpoetra 33-1; 3. Dust For One 50-1, 18 ran. 374, 5, 1M Pipe, Welling-Onl. Tota: £200; £100, £200; £150, £200, £2150 cSF: £3658. Tho: £35750; £2150 carried forward in Nembury 450 today. Places 6: £5619. Place 5: £5504 WINCANTON

LINGFIELD

2.00: 1. PALSANDER (M R Quest) 8-1;
2. Aquavita: 18-1; 3. Nosary Native 10-1 13
ren. 5-2 to Dorn Drop Borribe. 2-6 (8 Down
Total: £1430; ESTU £1000. £250. DP. £10020.
CSF: £3417. Tricast: £122152. This: £29690;
CS7284 cerried forward to Newbury 450 ib.
day. N°C. Philosophic

2.30: 1. HARRIK (M Wighern) 11-1; 2. New
Yorker 10-30; 3. Aldewych Arrow 9-1 10 ren.
Even 8th Nemburge. 4-6 (6 L Moore) Total
£10: £2960; £200. £370. DP. £2050. CSF:
£4852. This: £26490; £18156 carried forward
to Nembury 450 boday.

3.00: 1. RISE 'M SHIRE! (R French) 10-30;
2. Just Dissident 11-4 by; 3. Another Batthworth 16-1 10 ren. 2/A, 2/A, (C Cyant) Total
5-10; £200. £200. £500. DF. £500. CSF:
£228. Tricast: £224. £10: £300. This
£301. 1. COASTIGUARDS HERO (J Men.
\$100. 301. 1. COASTIGUARDS HERO (J Men.
\$100. 301. 1. COASTIGUARDS HERO (J Men.
\$100. 301. 1. COASTIGUARDS HERO (J Men.
\$100. 3. 1 fav. 2. Powlandsorna Charm 6-1;
\$3. Alpine Music 7-1 6 rin. 1/A, 2 (M Ushen), Total £500. £10. £240. £250. DF. £700.
CSF: £333. Tricast: £2650. This: £4860.

4.00: 1. HEVERGOLF PRINCESS (D Holent) 6-4 h tax; 2. Peartly Queen 7-1; 3. Fearhose 5-4 h tax 5 ran. Nr. 2 (T J Naugiton).
Total £500; £10. DF. £700. £57: £500.

4.30: 1. £500 ED. DF. £700. £57: £500.

4.30: 1. £500 ED. £700. £57: £500.

4.30: 1. £500 ED. £700. £57: £500.

4.30: 1. £500 ED. £700. £57: £500.

4.50: 1. £600 ED. £700. £700. £700.

£5470. £58: £583. Tricast: £365. Tric.
£500. NR. £58: £583. Tricast: £365. Tric.
£500. Tric. £500. £100. £400.

£5470. £570. £5840. £400 pr. £700.

F100. £470.

Simirasa weight: 7st 10to. True hardespo-Simirasa weight: 7st 10to. Two hardesposinght: Shesokin 7st 5lb. SETTING: 9-4 Dust, 11-4 Kingchip Boy, 9-2 Chesriul Groom, 6-1 John-rie The John, 10-1 Bold Fellin, 12-1 Assessme Venture, 16-1 Gilling Dencer, LINGFIELD 2.10 FLYING DRAGON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 7f G4 ARAD (11) R Marvin 48 to _______ T G McLaughlin 12
DO- WLD CITY (SA) (S11) R Marvin 49 to ______ S D Williams 6
DUBAI MURSE (J48) ADden 485 ______ S D Williams 6
DUBAI MURSE (J48) ADden 485 ______ R Lappin 7
SSSS FAYM (11) J Wharton 495 ______ A MicCentry (6) 3 R
3004 BALACLAVA (37) I Serryis 3 87 _____ Deen MicKenni 1 V
60832 SARA WOOM CLASSIC (16) K McAuffe 3 87 Dame O'Well 9
8. BELL USBAIA CATT & Fisher 3 2 89 5- BEAU VIENNA (177) A Dicien 3 8 2 ______ A Mostary 13 8 LADY MARSEL (16) J Berhell 3 8 2 ______ S Drowno 10 5- MOON GORGE (112) W Jarvis 3 8 2 ______ Quinn 2 Description of the second of t

2.40 SEA GOAT CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f 4-12 GREENSPAN (S) (CD) W Mair 89 8. J Wilderson (S) 1
20-22 FLUAL (25) (D) J Peace 59 4. M Wighten 3
400-6 SELBERRY (27) P Hadem 49 0. L Characta 4 8
400-0 CRUZ SANTA (7) (C) M Charman 5 81 Clare Land (7) 2 SETTING: evens Greenspan, 2-1 Filel, 3-1 Selberry, 25-1 Cruz Santa

- 18 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Pecnywise, 9-4 Bora Bora, 4-1 Thorismy/kes Lass, 6-1 Sephene, 10-1 Give Me Space, 12-1 Craft Book Ingoy, 20-1 others 3.10 MILKY WAY HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m

3.40 NORTH STAR HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 6f

2.4,500 acided 6f

1 2345 TROJAN HERO (SAF) 200 Mrs M Reveloy 7:00 A Cultume 6
2 40054 BROADWRY MELODY (I) (D) A Jarvis 4 6 8 — W Ryan 4
3 32345 HAMMARS USHER (11) (C) (D) P Polymin 9 8 — C conter 5
4 500-55 PET BOPRESS (28) (DD) P Hammar 9 9 8 — T G McLaughtin 10
9 055-50 PETTE DANSELSE (16) (D) D Chapman 4 9 2. P Passey (5) 9
7 - 10044 JULES LEWEL (7) (CD) M Chapman 8 9 1. S Carson (7) 7
9 0-022 HURGILL LADY (14) TINIon 4 6 7 2 — Alex Graves 8
9 275-4 AUMANS USCKY (118) (CD) J Petror 3 8 10. — A Polit (5) 1
10 000-0 RUDE AWAKENING (10) C Pathwar 4 8 8 — C Lowther (3) 1
14 -523 RMSR BESCAI (16) (CD) W M Belicume 5 83 A McCarthy (6) 2
2 000-10 SEAMCHAI (28) (D) (SP) P Felpass 5 9 2 — D Wright 11
- 12 declared BETTING: 7-2 Hurgill Lady, 4-1 Kontesept, 6-1 Trojan Hero, 8-1 Hammark Usles, 9-1 Rwer Eneign, 10-1 Broadway Melody, Always Locky, Semetal, 12-1 Julies Jeves, Pet Express, 16-1 Puttin Demosters, 25-1 Rade Avastoring

4.10 PEACOCK SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 7f

11 0-6320 HOLLOWAY NEL COV (21) B McMelton S6 3. ... L Newton 7

-11 deciared -BETTING: 2-1 Scathebury, 7-2 Pine Ridge Lad, 9-2 Sense Of Priority, 7-1 Holloway Melody, 5-1 Cambridge Bize, 10-1 U-No-Harry, 12-1 Broughtone Pride, 20-1 Parden, 25-1 others 4.40 GREAT BEAR HANDICAP (CLASS F)
(Div II) \$23,000 added 1m

Absence of Gascoigne exposes limitations

Football

By Glenn Moore Football Correspondent

THE purpose of this week's twin internationals with Chile was to broaden Glenn Hoddle's options as be plots England's World Cup course. Instead, the 2-1 defeat for the B team on Tuesday and the 2-0 reverse for the seniors on Wednesday has narrowed them.

He will not have thought so as he sat fidgeting on the bench, waiting for a chance to play, but Wednesday night at Wemhley was a good one for Paul Gascoigne. In his absence from the fray, England's midfield was tevealed to be no better than workmanlike, their limited collective vision exposed by the ex-although he came dangerously Hoddle admitted that no one ball enough and struggled to then compounded by bringing capped so early, not at the hopansive performance of Jose Luis Sierra on the opposing side.

The Chilean's 50-yard pass for Marcelo Salas's breathtaking opening goal was hailed by Hoddle as one of the best he had ever seen, but it was by no means his only incisive one. There were at least two more chance-creating balls which fell into the modern parlance of "key pass", along with a series of quick-witted lay-offs which knitted together the South Americans' midfield.

Against this cohesion England could only offer the ankletapping David Batty and his eager but limited cohorts, Rob Lee, Nicky Butt and Phil Neville. Each have their qualities. Batty is hard to play against

composed with the ability to go goal and Neville is athletic and two-footed.

None, however, can see a pass like Sierra or Gascoigne, or, to an extent, the injured trio of David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Jamie Redknapp. The best Michael Owen to chase. England passing of the week came from Paul Merson in Tuesday's B-team match at The Hawthorns and he faded as the team lost shape and heart in the second half. Eight years on from Italia '90, it seems England are still reliant on the unreliable

It is not just a matter of

close to overdoing it - Butt is demanded the ball the way he pass it out from the back. As a him off for Shearer, giving Engdoes and the back three were team we did not pass well, did past people, Lee has an eye for thus offered limited options not defend well and became when in possession. This usually meant, after briefly passing among themselves, they then either played a hopeful hoof to- He did pick one passer, Teddy wards Dion Dublin's head or

> It was thus also a good night for another spectator, Gareth Sonthgate, who is more comfortable in possession than most English defenders. It also compounded the misfortune of neither Redknapp nor Rio Ferdinand being fit enough to

play as sweeper for the B team. After the defeat, the heavi-Gascoigne's passing ability, it is est of his 15-game reign, Hod- to play in a deeper role at the in stark contrast to Owen, who

stretched out."

Yet Hoddle himself must bear a large share of the blame. Sheringham, but then pushed opted to kick over the top for him too far forward to influence play, leaving the midfield understrength in numbers and quality. This was why England became pulled ont of shape, as they had against Poland at

> attack with Steve McManaman behind them. The error was tacitly admitted when he asked Sheringham

> home when he paired Alan

land a hizarre forward line of three strikers.

While his desire not to withdraw Dublin or Owen was understandable, the fumbling last 20 minutes which saw England hoisting balls aimlessly into the box will bave done neither much good.

Owen emerged unscathed judging by his confident - and justified - post-match assertion of: "I was quite pleased with my performance.

Shearer and Les Ferdinand in Dublin was also upbeat, but his constant reference to it being "great to wear the white shirt of England" betrayed a belief that he did not really belong also his desire for possession. dle said: "We didn't want the start of the second half, hut was was only surprised at being

nour itself.

Dublin began well, linking cleverly with Owen, but his inexperience of the wiles of international defenders showed as be failed to make clean contact on any beader near goal and be was eventually marginalised. So far the quoted judgement by Gordon Strachan, his manager at Coventry, that he could be an "international-class centre-half but only a decent centre-

forward" is half right. Owen is more likely to be persevered with. His pace and alertness made him a constant threat. He created several halfchances for others and was unlucky not to score himself. Hoddle, who has now capped 39 players and called up 50, said Salas 'turned down'

MARCELO SALAS, Chile's

Wemhley hero, could have

come to England for half the

£12m being paid by Lazio, it

Long before Manchester

United expressed an interest in

him, the agent Tony Henry was

in negotiations to bring Salas to

England, "Blackburn had their

chance for months," he said.

"Salas wanted to come to Eng-

land and would have gone to

Blackburn immediately. The

price at the time was £5m and

Salas was looking for £400,000

a year, which is only average

Henry said he alerted Tot-

tenham and Everton when

Blackburn pulled out, but met

Salas's international team-

mate Javier Margas is a target

for Sheffield Wednesday. The

club's manager, Ron Atkinson,

has made n £1.8m bid for the

experienced centre-half, who

plays for Universidad Catolica.

the Colombian international

striker Hamilton Ricard for

£2m from Deportivo Cali, sub-

ject to a work permit, on a four-

and-a-half year contract.

Middlesbrough have signed

Premier League money."

with little interest.

emerged yesterday.

by English clubs

Owen "did extremely well. He did some exciting things and proved be can get on the back

of defenders". England's next match is in Switzerland on 25 March. This is followed by matches with Portugal and Saudi Arabia at home and Morocco and Belgium in Morocco. There are also some

B internationals. It is not much, and fortune will play a large part in the fate of individuals. The likes of Redknapp, Les and Rio Ferdinand. Merson and Andy Cole will need to stay fit if they are to seize a place when the squad for France is named on 2 June. Once again, however, it will be Gascoigne's fitness - mental and physical which will be under most scrutiny.

The new Scottish Premierahip was finally given the seal of approval yesterday at Hampden

Park. The 30 lower division

clubs took less than an hour to

allow the top 10 to leave the

Scottish League at the end of

this season. With each of the top

10 having four votes, against the

two for First Division clubs

and one for each Second and

Third Division clubs, there was

little doubt about the outcome

- and the vote reflected that,

with 58 votes for and 20 against

signing the Aston Villa mid-

fielder Sasa Curcic has been

held up by the Serb's recent

nose operation. Steve Coppell,

the Palace manager, is waiting

for Curcic 10 return to training

Birmingham City are on the

verge of persuading their cap-

tain Steve Bruce to spend the

rest of his playing career at St

Andrew's. The 37-year-old de-

before making a firm offer.

Crystal Palace's interest in

the hreakaway.

Snowboarding reclaims its pot of gold

Winter Olympics

Mike Rowbottom reports from Nagano

WITH one bound, the beleaguered sport of snowboarding burst free from its bonds here yesterday. Ross Rebagliati, who tested positive for marijuana after winning snowboarding's first Olympic title here on Sunday, was able to take the gold medal out of his pocket and hang it back round his neck after being deared on appeal.

Rebagliati profited from a manoeuvre more involved than any be has ever attempted on a snowboard - the Legal Loopbole, involving deft footwork and a 180-degree turn.

The Court of Arbitration for Sports concluded that an ambiguity in the rules on marijuana operating at these Winter Games meant the snowboarder had no legal case to answer.

But, sadly for the 22-year-old Canadian, life was still far from be spent more than I1 hours at a local police station convincing officers there was no basis for charging him with drug abuse. It was, Canadian officials maintained, a mere matter of

The ruling left many asking where Olympic sport now stands in relation to marijuana. When it was suggested to the Canadian chef de mission, Carol Anne Letheren, that anyone could compete at the Games even if they were high as a kite, she replied: "Under these rules, yes."

It transpired that the International Ski Federation (FIS) regulations which had been applied, offering the option of punishment for anyone whose sample registered more than 15 nanograms per millilitre of marijuana, were drafted with other sports in mind.

FIS officials explained that it was meant to deter sportsmen and women tempted to take the drug to calm their fears before more perilous events, giving the example of ski jumping.

For obscure reasons, the name of Eddie Edwards was also mentioned at this juncture by the FIS people - hut Letheren was swift in her denial of any implication that the fondly remembered British iumper was either scared or a marijuana user.

She added that the snowboard slalom in which Re- ruling could send out a mixed bagliati won his title was regarded by the FIS as a technical sport. "They believe taking marijuana would have a detrimental effect in that event," Letheren explained.

She added that Rebagliati's defence that his reading of 17.8 nanograms was due to passive smoking from his housemates

hack home in Whistler, near Vancouver, was not even considered by the court.

The Cariadians had prepared medical evidence suggesting that prolonged exposure to marijuana smoke - for example, an hour a day for six days - could create readings of well over 100. The reading for someone who had just smoked a joint would be 400.

Other choice new evidence was also revealed, "It is Ross's befief," Letheren said, "that because of the nature of the substance where he lives in Whistler - in that area it is four times more potent than in any other area - the only explanation be can give is that it was secondhand." How this is likely to affect Whistler's tourist trade remains to be seen.

"I think FIS clarification early on in these Games would certainly have helped everybody," said Letheren, an IOC member, with painstaking diplomacy.

However you view the totally cool. Wearing his medal, Olympics' youngest sport, you cannot accuse it of being low profile. Austria's world champion, Martin Freinademetz, was thrown out of the Games yesterday after a party during which furniture was broken and a hotel switchboard was put out of action after a can of beer was thrown over it.

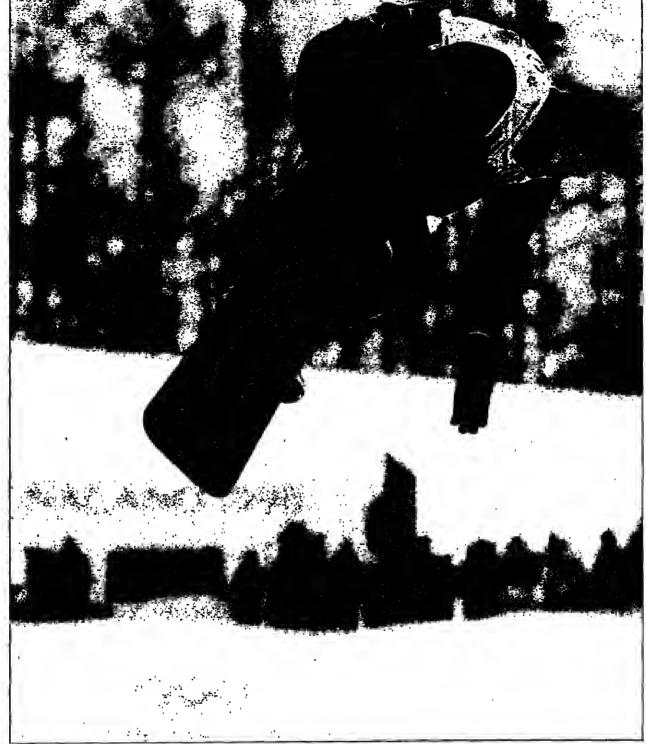
> Freinademetz was among the guests at the snowboarders' hotel, the Shig-Kogen Prince, who were involved in a drunken party in the lobby. "We had a party, we had fun, something got broken," said Freinademetz, a 28-year-old known as The Terminator because of his aggressive racing style. "It's not cool, but it happens."

> Although local officials were not keen to press charges, Austrian officials felt differently and withdrew the accreditation of Freinademetz, who finished seventh in Sunday's slalom event.

Freinademetz, who later apologised and offered to pay for any damage, rounded off his night of fun with a brief spin in an official snowmobile.

His qualities as a future role model for the sport look questionable, but Letheren yesterday expressed the opinion that Rebagliati, who she said had handled himself extremely well in difficult circumstances, now had a "real opportunity" to demon-

strate leadership within the sport. "We are concerned that this message to young people," Letheren said. "We know marijuana is a drug which many people use, but our information is that this is not a problem in snowboarding at the élite level. Guys like Ross can stand up and say: 'It isn't part of it'."



Cool customer: Switzerland's Gian Simmen skis his way to gold in the halfpipe event yesterday

Britain hope to add bronze to tattoos

team were not regarded as likely medallists at these 18th Winter Games, but they have now put themselves into a position where they are just one victory away from a hronze.

Such was the commitment of Britain's Scottish quartet that three of them - skipper Kirsty Hay, Katie Loudon and Fiona Bayne, had made their Olympic ambitions tangible by having tattoos of the Olympic rings applied to their backsides.

Jackie Lockhart, who did not feel moved to do the same thing, said yesterday: "The tattoos were 'very discreet', measuring one centimetre by three centimetres."

Asked if there was any likelihood that these tattoos would see the light of day, perhaps if the British quartet made sure of a medal by winning Saturday's semi-final she replied: "Yes, we can hope." Whether the hoping was connected to the results nr the tattoos was not clear.

peared to rest with the men's last end into the house to secure team of Dougie Dryburgh, two points and a semi-final Ronnie Napier, and hrothers Philip and Peter Wilson. But they were left hoping that fortunes would go their way on the final day after mixed fortunes yesterday. A 9-5 victory over the hosts in the morning was followed by a 4-7 defeat by the European champions, Germany.

It means that Britain must win their final match with the USA today and hope that the team above them in fourth place, Sweden, lose. That would give them the opportunity to progress to Saturday's semi-final by way of a play-off.

The women, however, are safe in fourth place, having secured their fourth win with a 6-5 decisinn over Germany. The other semi-finalists are Canada, Sweden and Denmark.

The game against Germany was a tight affair with Britain allowing a 4-2 lead to turn into a 4-5 deficit before Hay, a 26-Britain's medal hopes in the year-old medical sales rep from

THE British women's curling competition had ap- Perth, drew the last stone of the finished sixth in the first section place. "We are delighted to have got this far," Hay said. "We do not have any preferences for the semi-finals. Against Canada it would be tough but we had

> a reasonable game against them. The semi-finals are different anyway because every team is a little bit more nervous and the expectations on Canada are huge. I think we are in as good a position as we could

> have hoped for." Those sentiments were echoed by Lockhart. "The men got more publicity then us beforehand hut if penple had looked at our record they would have seen that we have played well at world championship

"We started slowly in this tournament, gradually settling to the ice, but we were quietly confident hopefully we will be peaking at just the right time." Britain's sole figure skater at these Games, Steven Cousins,

of his competition - the short programme - marred only by one slight stumble. Cousins bas given himself

the chance to finish in a respectable position following tomorrow's concluding freestyle programme. "It felt great." he said. "I was so happy to be out there giving it my best." Cnusins, who was disap-pointed with his seventh place

at the European Championships, had vowed to take risks here at what will be his last Olympics. But he was only able to produce a triple-double combination last night, while the top four managed hack-to-back triples. Cousins' training partner, Elvis Stoiko, seeking an Olympic

gold to add to his world titles, led the standings after receiving nne perfect six. But he faces tough competition from the American challenger Todd Eldredge and the Russians, Alexei Yagudin and Ilia Kulik.

Alpine skiling: Men's super-G 11.45 (Fri); Women's downtal 01.15

Cross-country skiling: Men's 15km freestyle

Norrisc combined: 15km individual cross

Speed skating: Women's 500m second

Figure sketing: Meris free programme 1000.

ice hockey: Men's final round: Qualifier 1 v United States O 0545; Sweden v Cana-da 0845. Women: Japan v Sweden 0300; Finland v China 0700; Canade v United

Bobeleigh: Two-man, first run 0600.

games 0000; Worresto Men's semi-finals 0800.

Curling: Ments and women's tiebreal games 00.00; Women's semi-finals 05.00

Television times: BBC1 0550-1040, 1325, 1355, 1430, 2450-0330; BBC2 1040-1335

TOMORROW

DUrsuit 00.00

COUNTRY 04DO.

Stevenage, who upset Yeovil by delaying the release of his playto suspend Roberts for 14 days. ing registration.

By Andy Farrell

Golf

CASEY MARTIN, the 25-yearold American golfer who suffers from a degenerative circulatory condition in his lower right leg which prevents him from being able to walk 18 holes, has won the right to use a buggy in

competition. However, the

Open may still be closed to him. The landmark ruling, handed down by the US Magistrate Tom Coffin in Martin's home town of Eugene, Oregon, means he can use a cart in US PGA and Nike Tour evenis. But the ruling only applies to Martin, and to the PGA Tour. which Martin took to court under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Given the disparate governing bodies in the game, it will still be a while before Martin can ride a huggy in a major championship. Should be try to qualify for the US Open or the Open Championship, he will have to walk.

Althnugh the US Golf Association is reviewing its conditions in light of the judgement. David Fay, its executive director, had stated that they will not change the entry conditions for the US Open, which require

competitors to walk. However, the Royal and Ancient secretary, Michael Bonallack, said there would be no review for the regulations governing the Open Championship, which state that "players shall walk at all times during a stipulated round unless permitted to ride by the Championship Committee".

"Everyone has tremendous sympathy for Casey Martin," Bonallack said. "There are a lot of competitions where a player may use a buggy, but the Open is the ultimate test and walking is a part of that,

"The case in America was: hrought by a player against his association under their employment laws. None of the players are employed by the R&A, or the Open Champion-

Results from the Winter Olympics

CURLING

Men's fifth prefiningry round: United States 3 Germany 5; Great Britain 9 Japan 5; Norway 7 Sweden 4; Carseda 8 Switzer-land 3. South prefiningry round: Norway 5 Switzerland 4; Carseta 8 Sweden 3; Ger-many 7 Greatt Britain 4; Japan 8 United States 8

Yoman's titth preliminary round: Great Britain 6 Germany 5; Canada 7 Sweden 5; Denmerk 6 Jepan 4; Norway 9 United FIGURE SKATING

Men's ehort programme: 1 | Kulik (Flus) 0.5 pts; 2 E Shojko (Cen) 10; 3 T Schredge (U.S) 15; 4 A Yagudh (Flus) 20; 5 P Can-deloro (Fr) 25; 5 S Cousins (GB) 30; 7 han Diney (But) 3.5; 8 D Dmitrenko (Ukr) 40; 9 M Tytesen (Den) 4.5; 10 Z Guo (Ch) 5.0.

ICE HOCKEY Men's 9th place match: Germany 4 Slovekis 2. 11th place match: France 5 Italy 1, 13th place match: Japan 3 Austria 3

hold your hreath.

Perhaps he will. But don't

NORDIC SKIING Men's 10km cross-country dis

1 Bjorn Daghlie (Nor) 27min 245sec 2 Markus Gandler (Aut) 27:325...... Fauner (It) 28:15.5

Women's 10km cross-country pursuit Larises Lazutina (Rus) 46min 069sec 3 AMERIKA REUTHANDOVA (CZ PRP) 46;142 41 Taranenko Tarelis (Ukr) 46;171; 55 Bel-mondo (ti) 48:198; 6 J Tchepalova (Plus) 48:284; 7 N Genryliouk (Plus) 48:483; 2 A Moen-Guidon (Nor) 47:346; 9 B Mar-tinsen (Nor) 47:111; 10 B Albrecht (Swit) 47:118.

[90] Deaths Dallie Chilatena Bis New Co.

SNOWBOARDING

n Simmen (Swit) 85.2pts viel Franck (Nor) 82.4 ss Powers (USA) 82.1 4 F Rohver (Swit) 787; 5 G Chestagnol (Fr) 783; 6 J Soderqvist (Swe) 778; 7 S Kuhlberg (Fn) 766; 8 M Michelchuck (Can)

4 C-Beth Burnside (US) 726; 5 M Ricker (Can) 711; 5 M Hesso (Fin) 708; 7 J Jon-seon (Swe) 859; 8 J Waarz (Swe) 827.

SPEED SKATING Men's 1500m 1 Aprileo Sonetral (Nor)

4 J Bos (Neth) 1:49.75; 5 K C Boutiette (US) 1:5004; 8 M Hersman (Neth) 1:50.31; 7 H Noeke (Japan) 1:50.96; 8 C Breuer (Ger) 1:50.96; 10 A Anufriyenko (Rus) 1:50.98.

MEDALS TABLE

TIMETABLE TODAY (times GMT) Alpine skiing: Men's downkii 01.15; Men's combined downkii 09.00.

Curting: Ments seventh round: Gt Britain v United States 0500; Japan v Germany 1500; Sweden v Switzerland 0500; Norway v Canada 05.00; tie break (if neces-Sary) 10,00. Women's seventh round: United States v Japan 00,00; Denmark v Norway 00,00; Gt Britain v Sweden 00,01; Canada v Germany 00,00; tie break (if nec-

Figure skating: ice dancing compulsory States v Sweden 0545; Canada v Qual-fler 1 0945; Finland v Czech Republic 0545; Quellifier 2 v Russia 0945. Luge: Men's doubles 05.00.

Nordic combined: 90m individual ski jumping 00:30.

لكذا من ألاصل

fender is out of contract in the . summer and negotiations over a new 12-month deal are now in progress. Southampton have made a £1.5m bid to sign the striker Alun Armstrong from Stockport

John Fry, their chairman, said:

"We strive hard to represent our

club, our town, our league and

our sport in a professional and

that impinge on our good rep-

utation are matters for disci-

keen to "distance themselves to-

tally" from the rude remarks in .

the fax and on Wednesday it was:

revealed that Roberts was leav-

ing the club "with immediate ef-

fect". His departure is likely to

lead to the loss of several key

players who, like Roberts, live

in London, where training ses-

sions were held. The coach.

Colin Lippiatt, will take charge

of the team at Hayes tomorrow.

1995 and took them to the Icis

League title and promotion to

the Conference last season.

Prior to moving to Huish Park

as player-manager, be was with

Roberts, who has also managed Enfield, joined Yeovil in

plinary action."

courteous manager. Matters

Fry added that Yeovil were

1

56 ·

Si.

Mr.

Fax fracas leads to departure of Roberts from Huish hot seat

Non-League notebook

By Rupert Metcalf THE FINAL and most bizarre victim of the war of words between Stevenage Borough and Newcastle United was Graham Roberts, who until this week was

the manager of Yeovil Town. The former Tottenham and England defender has lost his job at the amhitious Somerset cluh because of his alleged involvement in sending a controversial fax to St James' Park prior to Newcastle's acrimonious FA Cup fourth-round replay against Stevenage last week.

The fax, which found its way into the Hertfordshire team's dressing-room, was apparently on Yeovil Town headed paper and reportedly contained disparaging comments about Stevenage. It allegedly said: "We are not all arscholes in the Vauxhall Conference."

When the news of the fax

broke, Yeovil's first reaction was

Martin allowed to use buggy

Russell may pay price of failure

Cricket Derek Pringle reports from Port of Spain

PLAN B, or not Plan B? That is the question. But, with England hoping to play an unchanged side in today's third Test against the West Indies, minor surgery is required if England are to recover and get back in the series.

Today's Test will be Michael Atherion's 49th as England captain. It is also one of the most important of his career. it. We just didn't play with Win it and the last minute enough conviction." U-turn he made to stay on last September will begin to seem the right decision. Lose it and the remaining three matches will seem like purgatory.

Monday's stinging defeat has not lain lightly on Atherton rain that has skirted Port of and, when he was eventually able to drag himself out of his room the next day, he cut a forlorn figure by the hotel pool. Sipping an orange squash he sat for a full 20 minutes shaking his pecially in the second innings. head as he recalled the enormity of England's reverse.

Yet, if Atherton has proved anything over his career, it is that he is resilient beyond compare and, following a team meeting where "nobody hid behind anything" and everyone "got things into the open," he felt his side would rebound, despite playing the Test on the same ground.

"It was important to have a couple of days off," said Atherton before practice vesterday. "It was one of the most drain-

their first Test against South

lowing the muggings outside the

tourists' hotel of Mohammad

South Africa's managing direc-

tor, Ali Bacher, said he would

discuss the request to postpone

the start "for maybe one day,

two days" with his colleagues.

Northamptonshire last season.

Saglain have left the team with

The United Cricket Board of

Akram and Saglain Mushtag.

Africa in Johanneshurg fol-

played in. Not only was it un- been kept waiting for 18 usually hot it was tense, too. months, Russell's 50th Test was Every session was on a knife edge. After the way we lost it was important to clear the mind and get away from the ground and the cricket.

"We've learned a harsh lesson, but it's better to learn it now while there are four Tests to go, than if it was the decider in a month's time. Test matches simply don't fall into your lap and I think we got to a stage where we just presumed we'd win. I don't believe we bottled

One of the problems in losing a gruelling Test match is that the tired limbs and bruises. which tend to miraculously vanish after victory, suddenly begin to niggle away. Indeed, if the Spain over the last few days recedes and the hot weather returns, it will be interesting to see how much the 30-year-old bowlers in both sides cope, es-

In the last match Angus Fraser was not only England's trump card, he held all the aces as well. But if the other bowlers will probably not howl as poorly again. England should be hold and play an extra frontline howler instead of Jack Russell. Depending on how the pitch scrubs up this moroing; either Ashley Cowan or Robert Croft ought to play.

There is little doubt that Russell, England's wicketkeeper, has been harshly treated in ing Test matches I've ever the past. But although he has

Sandton on Wednesday night.

Mohammad sprained his ankle.

suffered a bad cut to his right

hand and took a blow to the ribs.

and Saglain hurt his neck after

falling to the ground in the tus-

sle. Pakistan already had three

players, including their captain

Rashid Latif, out with injuries.

cause problems with television,

Any postponement would

Rashid, who replaced the

Akram as captain, has said he

not une to be immortalised on

For once, despite the risks inherent in lengthening the tail, the means justify the end. Psychologically, England need a boost. When you lose a Test after dominating all but two morning sessions, it is inevitable that you feel mentally hamstrung, and England know they are unlikely to put together a better sequence of play against this opposition again in the serics. Bringing in new blood offers renewed hope and possibly a different tack.

tn any case. the pitch, slightly damp at the moment - it was flooded after the previous match and with overcast weather about has not completely dried - has been better prepared than its predecessor, which was far grassier.

According to Bryan Davis, the pitch supervisor here, bat-ting will be tricky at first, with the pitch playing at its best on the second and third days. Unless England win the toss and bowl the West Indies out cheaply, they will need all the bowling they can get.

However. Atherton and David Lloyd, conscious that the remainder of the squad have had perilously little cricket, are intending to play an unchanged side. Adam Hollioake, underbowled since recovering from his shoulder injury, will have a late fitness test on a sore back. If he fails it, either Mark Butcher or Mark Ramprakash will hat at No 6.

By rights it should not be the only change and, whenever an imbalance has been created in the past, it is Russell's head that has tended to end up in the hasket. And, rightly or wrongly, it has become a natural cut.

But if both teams look well balanced it is England who need to win, or at the very worst draw, this Test. Mathematical possibilities may exist, but to leave Trinidad 2-0 down is an equation even Einstein would probably not care to resolve.

If Atherton has ever harboured aspirations of becoming a gambler, now is the time to

WEST INDIES (probable): S L Campbell, S C Williams, B V Lara (capt), C L Hooper, S Chanderpeut, J C Adams, D Williams, lwkst, C E L Ambrose, K C G Benjamin, N A M McLean, C A Walsh. ENGLAND (probable): M A Atherton (capt).
A J Stewart, J P Crawley, N Hussam, G P
Thorpe, A J Holtoake, R C Russell twkn, A
R Caddick, D W Headley, A R C Fraser, P C
R Tufnet.



Clubs prove a point in court

provocative attempt to secure immunity from the Restrictive Trade Practices Act has been rejected by the High ourt, much to the relief of England's professional clubs. The decision is likely drastically to weaken the governing body's authority over the Premiership teams, who are now in a stronger position to challenge the RFU's virtual monopoly on hroadcasting rights and fight

tional players out of their club contracts. hy, the top clubs' umbrella organisation, joined forces with the Office of Pair Trading to challenge the RFUs initiative and

any attempt to buy interna-

THE Rugby Football Union's with the OFT, "All we want to ensure the future of both the above the law of the land," said Peter Wheeler, the former England hooker and current Leices-

ter chief executive. Yesterday, Doug Ash, the new chief executive of both EFDR and the English Rugby Partnership, the joint RFU-EFDR administrative hody, said: "We are not surprised at the outcome because the RFU had no grounds. We believe this situation should he very open and the Restrictive Practices Court is there to ensure that English First Division Rug- agreements can be scrutinised."

The Welsh Rughy Union has come out in support of the henefit of all interested parunder-fire European Rugby ties." force it to register all agreements. Cup Ltd and its attempts to

establish is that the RFU is not European Cup and Conference competitions.

While the top 12 English clubs have announced their intention to boycoll the European Cup next season, the WRU has given its backing to both events.

The Welsh Rugby Union is fully supportive of European Rughy Cup Ltd in its organisation of European rugby competitions," the WRU chairman. Glanmor Griffiths, said. "The Union will totally support both a series of injuries to key play-European Cup and Conference ers, if 1 were picking now for events and will endeavour to promote a structured season that will be seen to be to the

Taste of the big time for Wilkinson

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

And they call Michael Owen precocious. Clive Woodward, the England coach, vesterday launched his challenge for the 1998 John Prescott-Chumbawamba Award for services to youth culture by calling Jon Wilkinson into his training squad for the Five Nations game with Wales at Twickenham tomorrow week. Jon who? You. may well ask.

For the benefit of the massed ranks of red rose supporters who would not know Wilkinson from Danbert Nobacon, England's latest outside-half prodigy has spent the last year or so understudying Rob Andrew at Newcastle. Like Owen, he is just 18. Unlike Owen, he has blazed a trail into the national squad without wasting valuable time proving himself at Premiership level. Indeed, he has made only six appearances for the title-chal-

lenging Geordies.
While Wilkinson has no realistic chance of facing the Welsh - if by some extraordinary turn of events he were to take the field, he would make Arwel Thomas look positively middleaged - his temporary inclusion among the English élite still ranks as the mother of all fasttrack promotions. There is method in Woodward's visionary madness, however, for the coach has long subscribed to the theory that the best young English talent should, whenever possible, be exposed to the unique atmosphere of a Test build-up.

"He'll join us for training on Tuesday, then link up with the Under-21s for their match with Wales at Worcester a week today," said Woodward, who has also recalled Andy Long. the Bath hooker premajurely capped against Australia lust at the moment," he said. November before heing

dropped like a hot potato. "These are the young guys it is important to highlight for the World Cup next year and while Wilkinson won't play for England this season unless there is probably be involved."

There is no doubting Wilkinson's central role in the vanguard of the coming generation. He Chris Hewett scored 38 points during the

England 18 Group's junior Grand Slam last season and shone for the Under-21s in their victory over France Youth in Mazamet a week ago. According to Dave Alred, England's kicking coach, he is already one of the most prodigious boofers of a rugby hall in the British game.

Woodward has not restricted his baby-snatching to Wilkinson and Long, either, George Chuter, the 21-year-old Saracen, is one of four hookers in a 27man squad bolstered by the return from injury of Richard Cockerill. Only Dorian West, Cockerill's deputy at Welford Road, has been omined from the squad taken to Paris for last week's unsuccessful Five Na-

ed to declare their hand early by

"Appleyard can count him-

For a coach under no little pressure, Bowring sounded remarkably upheat about his chances of masterminding a first Welsh victory at Twickenham since Adrian Hadley's twotry haul stopped the sweet chariot in its tracks precisely a decade ago. "I have a good deal of respect for the way Clive Woodward is trying to play the game, but there is quite obviously a doubt in English minds

WALES: N Jenkins (Protypickis); I Evens (Euri), A Beloman (Formerch, S Gebte IS Jerses, G Thomas (Cartili, A Thomas (Sharsee, R Howley (Cartili, Capt), A Lewis (Cartili, B Williams, Formerch, II Young (Cartili, G Lewellyn Processes, M Voyle, Lianell), C Charvis (Sharses, M Williams, Portyparit, S Outmaid (Partmend, Hopkedesente: W Proctor (Lianell, Lowles (Cartili, Polyne, Fortyparit (Sharses), C Stephens: Endgend, L Mustoe, J Humphreys (both Certili).

Sporting Digest

Dressage equality for disabled

Pakistan request Test delay

PAKISTAN have asked for a de-tacked outside their hotel in the

lay to today's scheduled start of wealthy Johannesburg suburb of

The Pakistanis say injuries sponsorship and licensing rights

sustained by the strike bowler while thousands of tickets for

and the Surrey off-spinner controversially sacked Wasim

only 10 fit players and three will not allow his team on to the

bowlers from their squad of 15. field today if the two bowlers' in-

The two players were at- juries mean they are unfit to play.

Mohammad, who was with the match have been sold.

Equestrianism

JO JACKSON, who won three - the new contest. gold medals at the 1996 Para-Aympic Games, is delighted to have the chance of competing in September's National Dressage Championships at Stoneleigh, writes Genevieve Murphy.

The opportunity comes through a new competition in which British Dressage Ltd (now independent of its former parent, The British Horse Society) has linked up with the Riding for the Disabled Assuciation. Known as the Strongid P.British Dressage RDA Championship, the contest will have five qualifying events leading up to the Stoneleigh final.

"It will be fantastic to be under the same umbrella as the top dressage riders." Jackson said yesterday, when she and fel-SNOW REPORTS

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low members of the Paralympic team celebrated the launch of

Last year Jackson lost her one and only horse - "It was at 5.15 on 12 September, the time and date are etched on my memory" - when the gelding. Jake, died of a heart attack. Helped by the unflagging Desi Dillingham, chairman of British Dressage, she is now on the brink of acquiring both B new horse and a sponsor.

Jake was not insured, but it is intended that the new borse will be fully covered by the prospective sponsors from ACE Insurance. The company is planning to offer her a package which would include commission for each of their policies placed through British Equestrian Insurance Brokers. Another sponsor is expected to huy the horse.

AROUND THE RESORTS

Show trating soft at low levels 100%

Top forced arow on rocket use 30%

Corrush — — — Cood dring in upper repurlan

ANDORRA

AUSTRIA

BULGARIA

FRANCE

5かなったかい

NORWAY

~ القودة الروبي

SWITZERLAND

UNITED STATES

SPAIN

Basketball

Data Net Data (Net Political States Net Political S

PRINTTEST (Sydney): England 3 Australia O. Triplest J. Ottaway, A Albook, A Thomson In K. Kerkow, S. Glasson, M. Jacobsen 3-4 3-2 5-4 6-4. Pairst: Albook. Thomson bl Kerkow, Glasson, 170 6-3 4-5 9-3 7-5. Singlest Ontoway bl. Jacobsen 7-2 7-4 7-4.

Boxing

A minor hand injury to the World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, has set back his title defence in Telford with Flichie Woodhall from 28 February to 27 March.

Cricket

28 February to 27 March.

A new tournament designed to revive small-hall boxing was launched in London yesterday. Fifteen British promoters will stage the UK Masters Championship beginning in April. States in Grand with the compete in each division with the competition, lasting a year, comprising preliminary bouts, quarter and semi-finals and 10-round finals to be held in Manchester and finals to be held in Manchester and

Glamorgan have decided to experiment with a late start in one of their County Championship matches this summer to see if they can attract more speciators to the final session. The first three days of their match against

Leicestershire in Cardiff in June will be-LECESTERSTRE IN CAROTT IN JURIE WILDEgin an hour laier, at hoor.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (Four-day matches):
Adetaide (third day): Vectoria 442 for 4 dec
M T G Elvet 122, B J Hodge 15cn; South
Australa 205 (G S Brewett 111, II W Fleming
6-35) and 30 to 8 (Brewett 97). Hobart (seeond day): Queersland 175 M W Fodgway 4447: Tasmenia 275 for 3 (D F Hills 72, II G Boon
52, R J Tucker 52, Brendan Croevey 4-51).

Bristol City have signed Southampton's

Norwegian striker Stitg Johansen on a month's loan.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fittis-round draws: Everton v Hull City or loaviet Town; Chelesa v Queens Park Rangers or Beddum Rovers; Peterborough Urd v Crew Absandra; Amenat v Middlesbrough or Leeds Urd.

Arsenar v Middlesbrough or Leeds Utd.
AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP (Burktra Feso)
Group B: Limes 2 (Simmue 31, Temcan 17)
Democratic Pepublic of Congo 1 (Oktarios) (8)
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: International friendly: England D Chile 2 (Salas 45, pan 79) (at Wembley stadium). B inserredional intendity: Republic of teland B D Northern Intend B 1 (O'Boyle 44) (at Total Park. Dublin).
African Nations' Cup Group A (Outgadougou, Burktra Reso): Burktra Faso 2 (Ouegadougou, Burktra Faso): Burktra Faso 2 (Ouegadougou, Burktra Faso): Burktra Faso 2 (Ouegadougou, Burktra Faso): Burktra Faso 2 (Ouegadougou): Burktra Faso 2 (O 78. Baggo pen 35. 79) Ban 3 (Bressan 38, 83) Volp 36); Bresca 1 (Savino 70) Juventus 1 (in zigin 51); Frorumina 1 (Babstuta 43) Internazio 26; Lazio 3 (Neutwol 15. 56. Gottard 90) Empol 1 (Caopelin 33); Leco 1 (Aselon 759 Roma 3 (Batho pen 43. D. Bergo 45. Gautieri 85), Milen 0 Udinese 0; Napol 1 (Aselon 759 Roma 3 (Batho pen 43. D. Bergo 45. Gautieri 85), Milen 0 Udinese 0; Napol 27; Sampdorta 2 (Mirajlonic 55) Vicenza 0; Peranda 1 (Crespo pen 12) Piacenza 1 (Buso 27); Sampdorta 2 (Mirajlonic 55, Boghossun 77) Atlainta 1 Deselling positions: 1 Juventus (20-45); 2 Inter 20-41); 3 Lazio 20-36); 4 Udinese (20-38); 24 Udi

1 Hyriain Leagus First Division: 3-(1)(001)
Thems 1; Molessy 2 Billericay 3, Unificand Leagus Cup foeth round: Boson Lud 7 Almorthern 1 Uniffile First Division Cup third
round: Farsley 0 Lincoln Urd 3 Pontins
Leagus Premier Division: Aston Villa 2 Tranmere 2; Berningham 4 Liverpoof 1; Blackburn
3 Preston 2. First Division: Bolton 2 Leacelet 2: Huddessfeld 2 Grimsby 0; Oldham 0 Port
Vals 2: West Bernswich 10 Notis County 1 Secoud Division: Stockport 5 Bradford City 2;
Wesham 0 Bernsley 1; York 1 Lincoln City 1.
Third Division: Donoseter 0 Wigan 0; Walsald 1 Scarborough 2; Newcastie 2 Bury 0. Avon
Insurrance Combinetion First Divisions:
Brighton 0 Charlton 7; Swindon 0 Southampton
1 The Yimes FA Youth Cup fourth round:
Portsmouth 1 Chelses 3.

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS (Melbourne)
Leading first-round scores (Aus unless
stated): 63 B Hughes, 65 Russel (GB), 66
M Googin, S Appleby 67 M O'Meara (US),
II Choora (Swe), A Bonhomme, 68 R Allen-by, T Carolan, 69 M Brooks (US) R Gibcon (Can), M Allen, N O'Hern, A Painter, M Cain, 70 R Kartsson (Swe), F Nobio (NZ), P De-venport (NZ), P Lonard, S Layoot, T Proc, J Woodland, J Senden, II Bransdon, II Foob

J Woodland, J Senden, II Bransdon, II Ecob.

ALPRED DUNNILL PGA (Johannesburg, SA) Leading finat-round scores: 67 P Alflock (GB) 68 C Rocca (II), A Forsbrand (Swe), R Wessele (SA), 69 J Mildre, Sng (Ind), O Edmond (Fr), M Witsahmer (SA), 70 S Kjeldsen (Den), M Mouland (GB), T van der Wall (SA), P Quitre (Swe), 71 Flowley (Fe), IA Wall
(GB), D Gammon (SA), B Luidre (SA), G Levenson (SA), N Price (Zim), R Goosen (SA), S Webster (GB): I Hundrins (SA), J Sandoin (Swe), C Wintelsw (SA), 72 J Remesy (Fr), S Reppes (SA), G Norman (Aus), C Davison (SA), L-W Zhang (Chi, 73 J van der Veicle (Fr), M Gorrans (IT), 74 G Cheimers (Aus), R Burns (Rep In), B Lincoin (SA), J Lomas (GB), C Kampa (SA), A Pitrs (US), A Cejice (Gar), 75 C J Hawkes (SA), R Drummond (GB), W Schutte (SA), 77 G A Sendywell (GB), J Bele (SA), V Philips (GB), P Simmons (SA), 77 G Nickleus (US), 78 R Derissen (Noth), I Pymen (GB), T Sidey (SA), B Ott (US), 70 W Westner (SA), 83 J Je Grange (SA), Withdrawm: Lorme Kelly, the Scottish intermation-

Lome Kelly, the Scottish international, maintained his four-stroke lead with a 73 in the Strokesaver La Manga Masters in Spain yesterday, despite an accident on his way to the course in which his car overfurned. STROKESAVER LA MANGA MASTERS STHORESAVER LA MANUSA MASI ERIS Leading third-round scores (GB or Influt-less stated): 213 L Kally 72 68 73 217 R Latham 73 71 73 218 M King 71 75 72 219 P Rowe 75 73 71, 221 A U Saura (Sp) 75 73 73; G Wolstenholme 74 72 75 222 II Minerdge 76 75 71, 225 C Rodgers 73 75 77; G Fox 74 76 75.

Hockey Tarwr Dar, a member of Pakistan's 1968 Olympic gold medal-winning team, has died. farwir, who was 50, had been suf-

1984 at Los Angeles. Motor racing The Belgian Grand Prix appears doorned after an appeal court ruling upheld logislation banning all tobacco advertising and sponsorship from next year. FIA, Formula One's governing body, warned last month that

this year's race, scheduled for 30 August at Spe Francorchamps, would be cancelled unless the sport was grant-ed a special exemption. China and South Africa are on standby to stage

Rugby League

A new organisation, XII ACTIF, has been set up in France to press for a genuinely French club -- based in Parls or Bordeaux -- to be restored to Super League. It has also lodged an application with the Prefecture of Police pication with the Prefecture of Poice in Paris for the return of funds con-fiscated by the Vichy government and given to rugby union when rugby league was suppressed 50 years **Rugby Union**

Rugby Union

WALES A (v Engtand A, Welford Road, 20
Fabrusay, 7.30); K Morgan (Pontypridd); G
Wyatt (Pontypridd), N Boobyer (Lanell), II
James (Pontypridd), N Walker (Lanell), II
Hayward (Ebbw Vale), A Moore (Richmond),
A Griffiths (Pontypridd), G Jentkins
(Swansee), C Authory (Swansee), B Moore
(Moseley), A P Moore (Swansee), M Lloyd
(Pontypridd), K Jones (Salw Vale, capi), C
Wyatt (Lanell), Replacaments: J Lewis
(Pontypridd), C Wardew (Lanell), H Harries
(Harlequins), I Boobyer (Neath), C Outsnell
(Richmond), N Eynon (Pontypridd), R

TODAY'S NUMBER

46.51

The percentage of football died. IarWt wno was ou, hau user sur-fering from diabetes and other health problems. Tarwir came from a suc-cessful hockey-playing family with two brothers also wirning Olympko gold medals for Pakistan – Munir at the 1960 Rome Games and Tauqir In 1984 et Jos Appeles. fans for whom the Spice Girls would be least favoured to record England's World Cup anthem, according to an Internet poll. The Lightning Seeds with Skinner and Baddiel were the most popular choice, with 13.95 per cent.

Camelot Group pic. Players must be 16 or over

Sailing

Paul Cayard continues to keep EF Language in the lead as the Whitbread Round the World fleet fights huge southern ocean waves and winds gusting up to 50 knots. Cayard, who expects to round Cape Horn lomorrow, compared conditions to the winter Olympics. "Right now we are doing one of the disciplines - the 12-man luge," he said.

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (Fifth leg. 6,870 miles, Auckland, NZ, to Said Schedich, Brol; 1 EF Language (Swe) P Cayard 32/89 miles to finish; 2 Swedath Match (Swe) G Krartz 25 miles behind; 3 Mert Cup (Monaco) G Datton +86; 4 Toshba (US) P Standardige +101; 5 Innovation Kraemer (Nor) k Frestad +106; 3 Chesse Facing (US) II Smith +81; 7 Brunel Surergy (North) ff Haner +197; 8 Sik Cut (Gi) I Smith +508; 9 EF Education (Swe) C Guillou +1007.

Tennis ST PETERSBURG MEN'S OPEN Singles, second round: Il Vacel, (Cz Rep) bi J Kripschild (Ger) 6-2 2-1 ret; C Pioline (Fr) bi J Van Harch (Be) 6-3 6-4: M Rossoti (Swit) bi O Detaite (Fr) 6-4 6-3 DUBAI MEN'S OPEN Singles, second round: DUBAI MEN'S OPEN Singles, second round: J Bjorkman (Swe) bi M Norman (Swe) 7-6 6-2: C Moye (Sp) bi A Costa (Sp) 7-6 6-2: N

Today's fixtures Football

FA CUP FIFTH ROUND Sheffield Utd v Reading (8.0)..... NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION
Cambridge Utle v Lincoln City (7.45)......
Colchester v Manastield (7.45).....
HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RIELAND Premier Division: St Pairick's Adholic v Derry City (7.35). UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Stewarts & Lloyds Corby Kempston (730).

Cricket THIRO TEST MATCH (First day, includes Sunday play): Port of Spain, Trinidad: West Incles v England (205pm start) THEO UNOTTICIAL TEST (First day of four includes Sunday play): Moratuwa: Sn Lan ka A v England A (40am). Rugby League

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Fourth round: Feetherstone Lona v Hull Kingston Rovers (7/15) (at Feetherstone Rovers): Egremont v Workington (7/30) (at Whitehaver) Basketball UNI-BALL TROPHY Semi-Snal second leg: Newcastle Eagles (76) v London Towers (52)

Other sports

tions opener with the French. The Welsh, meanwhile, opt-

naming a starting line-up yesterday and it showed only one change from the side that heat Italy last weekend, Colin Charvis replacing Rob Appleyard on the blind-side flank. Charvis was within touching distance of selection for last summer's Lions tour of when he suffered a serious groin condition.

self unfortunate hut Colin brings the instincts of a ball-winning open-side to the short-side position and we can use his explosive power in both attack and defence," the Welsh coach, Kevin Bowring, said,

at the moment inc satu.

ENGLAND SOLUAD (Five Notions' Chempsonship v Wales, Trackenham, 21 Feb Backs:

M Cort M Perry from Estru II Rees (Sale) A
Hosley, W Greenwood Boot Lecs. J Genoorit,
P De Gleowille Iboth Soth, P Grayson
(Northempson) J Wildinson INecessite: K
Branken (Samolet), M Dawson Richtengton)
Forwards: J Leoned Abstricture, II Garborit,
G Rowstree Best Leon.) P Vickery (Gouzs),
M Regart (Bath), H Cockerff (Leon.) G Chater
Sommers), A Long Besth, M Johnson (Leon.)
G Archer (Nortecasin) II Genoock (Sandens),
L Deltagio (Mago.) R HM (Sanzent), N Bod.
(Leon.), T Rodber (Northems), A Diprose
(Sangens).

Neder (Ger) bt T Muster (Aut) 7-6 6-4; W Fer-reare (SA) bt Breit Steven (N2) 2-5 6-4 6-5 F Manilla (Sp) bt B Becker (Ger) with SAN JOSE MERY'S TOURNAMENT Singles, first mound of Burito (Sp) bt A Gauderto (III) 6-3 6-1; Jivan Luttum (Nedt) bt A OBsen (US) 6-3 4-6 6-2! V Spadea (US) bt III Philepois-se (Aus) 6-4 6-3. Second round; T Haz- (Ger) bt G Stafford (SA) 6-5 6-2: J-M Garcal (US), bt T Nydshi (Swe) 6-4 7-6: JM Charra (US) bt G Basti (Swi) 7-5 6-3; A Apasso (CS) bt G Nuerton (Sh) 6-3 6-1. PARIS WOMENS INDOOR OPEN Singles, first round: S Piscovski (Fr) bt S Appelmars (Bel) 5-7 6-3 6-1; J Novotria (Cz Rep) bt R Grande (III) 6-1 6-4, B Paulus (Lauf) bt S Far-na (f) 8-1 6-3; I Majori (Czna) bt F Labet (Arg) 5-7 6-2 6-4.

5-76-26-4; D Van Rocci (Bet) bt 'V Probes (Ger) 5-76-27-6. LTA MEN'S TOURNAMENT (Chipwell) Sin-gles, second round: D Van Utleken (Bet) bt J Delgado (GE) 7-6-6-4, K Flygn (Swe) bt V Arthurs (Aus) 7-6-6-1 LTA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Birmingham) Singles, quarter-finets: J Pullar (GE) bt N Egorous (Rus) 0-6-7-6-4; J Vard (GE) bt H Mochazuki (Junan) 6-2-7-5. Ut Penson (Swe) bt O Manova (Rus) 6-2-7-6



Henry Blofeld's West Indies Update

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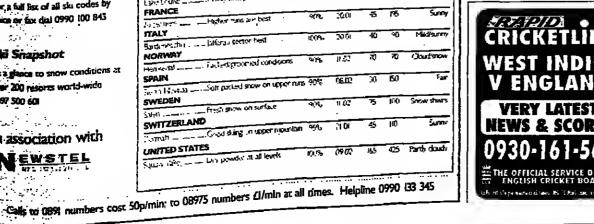
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Gullit sacked in bolt from the blue

A club in turmoil

By Adam Szreter

RUUD GULLIT'S tenure as player-manager of Chelsea came to an abrupt end after 18 months vesterday when he was replaced in the same role by the former Italian international striker Gianluca Vialli, one of the first players signed for Chelsea by Gullit.

The exact sequence of events that led to Gullit's departure remains unclear but Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, said at a hastily arranged press conference at Stamford Bridge yesterday: "We were unable to match his demands."

Gullit, appointed Chelsea manager in succession to Glenn Hoddle in the summer of 1996, had a contract which was due to expire in June of this year and has reportedly been locked in negotiations over a new contract with Chelsea's managing director, Colin Hutchinson, since October.

Yesterday, however, Gullit denied that he had been involved in talks prior to a meeting last Thursday.

"I was astounded to find out from the media that I have been Gianluca Vialli. I was only future. This meeting took place tiations." on 5 Fehruary, when Colin Hutchinson and myself talked very amicably about a new twoyear extension to my contract.

"At no time during my discussion was there any doubt in my mind that I would re-sign. In fact, I specifically told any- to contract beyond his present one who asked that I would sign a new deal after more talks there were no more talks.

"I am committed to Chelsea, and in particular to the fans, whose dreams I have tried so hard to fulfil.

"It is incorrect for Colin Hutchinson to state that took the unusual step of guar- assess up-coming opposition nately the gap was too wide to problem two years ago when we



replaced as Chelses coach by Meet the new boss: (From left) Colin Hutchinson (managing director), Gianluca Vialli (new player-manager), Gary Staker (translator) and Ken Bates (chairman) ring the changes yesterday Photograph: Peter Jay

the last six months to discuss the months - there were no nego-

For his part, Hutchinson said in a statement yesterday: "Uncertainty about Ruud Gullit's future at Chelsea has dragged on for several months. We have been attempting to get Ruud to commit to an extension deal, which expires on 30 June 1998, since last October. The delay has become potentially damaging. Back-room staff with mortgages to pay couldn't be sure they would be in a job after the season ends. Because of Ruud's non-commitment we out to watch potential players.

employment should Rund leave and his successor not require their services. For the good of the club and planning for next season the situation has had to

"Roud and I met last Thursing it was established Ruud was prepared to extend by two years. For our part, we indicated that we wished the new contract could be as a manager only. We believed this would allow Ruud more time to concentrate on the team and enable him to get involved in new areas like going Chelsea Football Club tried to antering first-team manage- and spend more time working allow further meaningful ne- had another manager [Gleun abound regarding Gullit's future good friends for advice and key to any successful team."

dividual players after the normal training sessions.

"We have appreciated that Roud has found it increasingly difficult combining playing and managing, despite us easing evening. According to Hutchihis workload. Unfortunately son, Gullit did not hang around day. During a 40-minute meet- while we were prepared to give to hear the had news. "I had a Rund a contract which we believe would have made him the lunchtime today," Hutchinson hest-paid manager in the Premiership, we were not able to ference. "But unfortunately it meet what he wanted and ex- did not get as far as telling him pected. We simply could not af- that he was being replaced beford what he was asking, cause he decided to call an Naturally this was disappointing. Rund was told at the end of the meeting that unfortu- come to this but we had this

a replacement,"

Vialli was apparently approached on Monday and was offered the joh on Wednesday meeting with Ruud at said at yesterday's press conabrupt end to the meeting.

Bates said: "I'm sorry that it's

asked to attend one meeting in negotiate with me for three ment staff a further one year on technique and skills with in- gotiations and that we would Hoddle] who wouldn't make his need to actively pursue lining up mind up until April and as we Netherlands or with his former season it was important to en-

sure a smooth continuity. There may be supporters who are sad that he is leaving and there may be others who take a contrary view but I am delighted to pay tribute to him. He took us on to a new plane as far as football was concerned. He helped make Chelsea one of the most talked about clubs in the world and he won us the FA Cup in his first season and will always be remembered for that. I'm sad he's leaving but one has to face up to facts."

While speculation will

- whether it lies in his native were already planning for next club in Italy, Milan, or elsewhere - Vialli was looking forward to

his new challenge. "I'm absolutely delighted and I have to say that I was amazed when Colin asked me if I was available for the job," he said. "This is the most unbelievable thing that's bappened in my career. I have a lot of great memories but this is something different even from the feeling of scoring a goal.

"I'm still a little confused but I'm very happy and I hope I can be the right person for the

right job. When Colin asked me if I was available, I called some

But I'm just a beginner and I know it's going to be different from being a player. The supporters have been unbelievable with me over the past two seasons and I would just ask them to keep supporting the club and the team.

"I know that for the players. will be a bit difficult to go. through this unusual situation but I bope they can go through it with manurity, which is the most important thing. I was one of the lads and I still am, but some things will have to change and what I want to do is improve the relationship between the manager and the players which is the

22

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B 152:

Vialli, the Michelangelo of Stamford Bridge

The new manager

By Guy Hodgson

WHEN Vujadin Boskov, the Yugoslav coach of Sampdoria, was asked to describe Gianluca Vialli, he did not hold back. "He delends like a tiger," he said, "attacks like a lion and is sharper than a puma." It remains to be seen whether he has the managerial wisdom of an

There were several paradoxes about the announcement that the 33-year-old Italian come to stay," he said. But if

player-manager, not least of wants to leave, then it is diffiwhich is that he is still at Stam-Iord Bridge. For much of his time under Ruud Gullit, Vialli

appeared to be on his way out. Only last May, as Vialli was about to be given a desultory two-minute appearance in Chelsea's FA Cup final win over Middlesbrough, Gullit appeared to have decided that his first signing as Chelsea manager would stay only for a season. "I don't want any player to leave, every player here is welcult." There was no doubt who he had in mind.

Vialli joined Chelsea in 1996, a few weeks after belping Juventus win the European Cup. It was the climax of a career that had begun with his local club, Cremonese, was nurtured under Boskov at Sampdoria and reached full

flower at the Stadio delle Alpi. A strong player who was described as clumsy as a youngster, but who achieved a

delicacy of touch in his late 20s,

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striker will become Chelsea's the player himself has said be he signed for Juventus in 1992 are ways of making a player unfor a then world record of wanted," he said." £12m. Three years later he was world player of the year. "He tempted Arsenal and Rangers,

> sculptor who can transform himself into a painter." The 1996 European Cup final was a hitter-sweet moment for Vialli, who lifted the trophy knowing it would be his last game for the clnb. Juven-

His free-transfer status is," Gianni Agnelli, the Juven- but he plumped for Chelsea, or tus owner, said: "the Michelanrather fashionable London. gelo of the Sistine Chapel. A signing a three-year deal worth £4.2m. Soon be was ensconced in a Knightsbridge flat, his distinctive shaven head frequently seen at the Italian restaurant,

San Lorenzo's. "London was always my dream," he said. "It was a mattus had offered him only a ter of image. Moving from one year's contract with no im- club to another is never easy. It

Vialli began only 25 games for Chelsea in 1996-97, while this season, despite Gullit frequently singling him out for praise, he has started only eight. Yet he has scored seven goals. In charge now, Vialli can select

himself as often as he likes. He is hugely popular with his supporters and he embarks on his new career at a fortuitous moment. Not many begin management with their team one match away from Wembley and

second in the Premiership. The puma, the lion and the tiger have landed on their feet.

The king is dead, long live the king

Gianluca Vialli

1964: Born Cremona. 1980-84: Signs for Cremonesa. 1984: John Sampdoria for £18m.

Ruud Gullit

Ruud Gullit
1982: Born Surisan.
1978: Signod for Hearlem,
1987: Made International debut.
1982: Johnsof Preyencord.
1985: Johnsd Psylvacord.
1985: Johnsd PSV Enchover.
1987: Signod by Milan for CSSm. European and World Pootleder of the Year.
1988: Helpod Milan to Raisen title. Captained Notification to European Champiorship.
1989: Wins second European Cup with Milan.
1990: Wins second European Cup owith Milan.
1990: Wins second European Cup owith Milan.
1990: Wins shard Italiem title with Milan.
1990: Wins shard Italiem title with Milan.

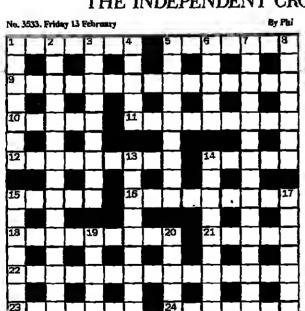
1990: Wirs that Ballen the with Mein before joining Sampdorts.
1994: Retired from International football. Moves back to Mean for seven months before returning to Sampdorfs.
1996: Signs two-year contract with Chalses.
1996: Signs two-year contract with Chalses.
1996: Signs two-year contract succession to Germ Hoddle.
1997: Guidee Choleet to sinth place in the Perrillership and wins the FA Cup.
1998: Sackard as Chalses manager.

lone at Wembley.
1992: Moves to Juventus for world-record.
1993: Ueta Cup white.
1993: Ueta Cup white.
1995: Ueta Cup white.
1995: Wins the hallon League and Cup double. Wholed World Player of the Year.
1996: Wins European Cup as Juventus best Alex on penalties. John Chelses on free transfer.
1997: Whis FA Cup.
1997: Whis FA Cup.
1996: Becomes Chelses player-manager.

1996: Melses Internetional for European 1996: Excess to Barcelona in European Cup-Winners' Cup tinet. 1990: Wins European Cup-Winners' Cup-scoring twice in final. Takes part in World Cup in Table. 1991: Whis Ballen title with Sampoloria.

1992: Loses European Cup final to Barce lone at Wambley.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- ACROSS Scottish official joh involving a good deal of travel
 (7)
- Struggle to produce combination of grain and fruit (7) Unusual treatment appli
- when ailing, having caught cold in the first place (7,8) IO Goddess or some other at Olympus (5)
 11 Church worker caught twisted gentleman in the grip of the Devil (9)
 12 Teams with polish will get a
- glance (9) 14 What may be used to re-
- strain members in strikes? 15 Crackers decorated with
- 16 Item of women's underwear affected Attic poet
- Madeleine (5) Uncommon description of a beampole laid flat? (4.2,3,6)
- 23 Ciphers possibly having a round shape (7) Haunt of thieves around City clearly lacking in heart and goodness (7)
- DOWN Own bodyguard is chasing vigitante group (7) Finished rehuilding the road in West Devon
- (4.3,4.4)Love in my soul dissipated in a worrying way (9) More than one story fol-

lows on the radio? (5)

- Bird, or, on part of coat of
- arms (9) Violin used in dramatics When there's zero profit in
- having committed oneself? (5,2,2,6) Motors with English and
- Spanish girl (7)
 13 Ill-considered and almost rude, I see (9) Dashing round unseated rival, like a mediaeval knight? (9)
- 15 Crowds supporting the French religious representatives (7) Stayed up (not half) danc-ing for Mardi Gras? (7)
- 19 Astonish the little woman with gold (5)
 20 Cockney, finally: "I 'ad 'old of the crop" (5)

ng PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL, and printed at Mirror Cokner Print. St Back buses available from Historic Newspapers, 19098 840370 Registered as a managery with the Post Office

provement in wages. "There had to be a radical change." Cold, aloof and ruthless, yet his appeal was magnetic

had nothing to do with racial

prejudice. Perhaps because the

game comes so easy to him, he

match for television, Gullit

rarely goes to games. He left

Cheisea's scouting to other

people. In fact, he had to be per-

suaded to go and watch even his

own teams play, other than the

first XI of course. And yet, in

other respects, he was the ulti-

mate professional. When

Chelsea won 6-1 at Tottenham

recently, one might have ex-

pected someone as laid-back as

Gullit to be putting his leet up

in the dug-out. Not a bit of it.

Even at 4-1 he was up on his feet

cajoling his players, urging them

Yet players want to play for

on to greater heights.

like talking about it."

The departing hero

By Clive White

WE KNEW it would have to end one day, so there can be no regrets about Rund Gullit's leaving. Two and a half years lot of other things in life," he was more than most of us expected him to stay when Glean Hoddle pulled off one of the transfer coups of the decade. There is not a lootball fan in the country, no matter his persuasion, who cannot say that he did not feel just a little bit more proud about the English game for Gullit's involvement in it.

Probably no other footballer in the world could have done more, by his mere presence, to lift the profile of the English game abroad. He has been a godsend to the Premiership and doubtless their paymas ters, Sky Television, too.

It is a mark of Gullit's standing in the game that he should have become the first black manager in the Premiership without anyone ever commenting on the fact. Furthermore, that it should have been at a club where 10 years earlier another black player, Paul Canoville, was bounded out because of racial abuse.

Gullit has never been the sort to be fazed by such problems. His self-confidence, which at times borders on arrogance, was apparently invested in him by his father, a self-made man who emigrated to the Nether-

lands from Surinam. And yet despite his apparent popularity with the public at die succeeded in luring Gullit to

large, Gullit has had his detrac-tors here and for reasons that reer, it is doubtful whether even he would have had sufficient cachet to attract some of Serie A's leading players like Gianfranco Zola and Gianluca Vialli.

is not as passionate as some would like. "Look, there are a Gullit can be ruthless in his determination to succeed. Probably no other manager in Engonce said. "When I am at home I don't even think or talk about land could have got away with football. It's not my whole life. teaving out Vialli as often as he has, as well as other players of I like it, I like playing it. I do not similar standing such as Zola and Mark Hughes. If he is not commenting on

There have been stories that he is uncaring, cold to the point of indifference and aloof with his players. But then so was Brian Clough and countless other great managers. "As far as he is concerned," his assistant, Graham Rix, said recently. "he is treating them no differently from the way he was treated when he was a player in Milan at the top of his career and found

himself left on the bench." Gullit has enjoyed his English experience. In Italy he found it difficult to escape attention, even in a city as large as Milan. Privacy is respected even less there than it is here and there has been minimal intrusion into his private life, including his relationship with Johan Cruyff's daughter. "It's because I lived my life so seriously over there," he has said, "that I now Ieel so free over bere, playing and managing Chelsea, living in London, going to gigs and the cinema and

him like few other managers. His just baving fun." appeal is magnetic. While Hod-All good things, though.

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